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IN TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST

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- Scandal at the Tel Aviv US Embassy? Steve Rodan investigates whistle-blowers against alleged visa fraud who claim they have been silenced. Magazine.
- Tenacious Warren Christopher hopes success on the Israel-Syria track will erase past foreign-policy failures, reveals David Makovsky. Section B.
- World-famous for torturing Israelis every morning, Hamizer is a one-man riddle factory. Dina Kraft picks his devious brain. Magazine.



Singapore's Lee praises military cooperation with Israel

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SINGAPORE Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew spoke fondly and openly about the 30 years of military cooperation between his country and Israel, after a five-day visit during which he was feted by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"We are fortunate in having the Israeli armed forces begin our fundamental training systems, because the needs [of the two countries] are similar... The system of instant readiness was crucial and still is," he said in a joint interview with a few Israeli and Singaporean reporters.

In his first public remarks since last week's caning of US citizen Michael Fay, 18, Lee said the punishment was justified since other deterrents are inadequate as government must restrain people from their "inherent viciousness."

He questioned permissive American societal norms, which value the individual at the expense of those around him. Lee indicated that the net result was that in the US "everybody can look after himself and does what he likes. So everybody buys a gun, rides a horse to the west, and kills Red Indians. He builds a main street and then becomes a rich man, finds gold or whatever."

When asked if he favored reforms that would enable broader political opposition in Singapore, Lee replied, "Why should we, unless we are self-destructive, meddling with a system that has given us 30 years of stable, steady, and sensible calm?"

"Nobody is advocating it, and please don't mention it when you come to Singapore."

When asked about future cooperation with Israel, Lee said, "There is no end to improvements in the system in the way weapons are used."

During his visit, Lee toured Israel Aircraft Industries, including the Amos civilian satellite project. Lee, who is the founding father of independent Singapore and headed its economic success and modernization drive, called for the establishment of Israeli-Singaporean joint ventures to penetrate China, Vietnam, and Burma, and help become part of the rapid industrialization of those countries.

British Labor Party leader dies at 55

LONDON — John Smith, the Labor Party leader believed by many to be Britain's prime minister in waiting, died suddenly after a heart attack yesterday, aged 55.

Tributes poured in from all sectors of a shocked nation, those from Smith's political opponents as fulsome as those from his party and friends.

With no heir apparent, Smith's death could set off a bitter party leadership struggle. (Agencies) (Full report, Page 5)

SHABBAT BEGINS ENDS

Jerusalem	6:49	8:08
Tel Aviv	7:07	8:10
Haifa	7:01	8:11
Beer Sheva	7:04	8:03
Eilat	7:02	8:04

Marinan Kanafani, an adviser to Yasser Arafat, makes a point to Brig.-Gen. Nasser Yusef, head of the Palestinian security forces, as IDF Brig.-Gen. Yomtov Samia, head of the security liaison committee, looks on.

Rabin opens door for Ramon's return

Labor's political bureau holds stormy four-hour session

PRIME Minister Rabin opened the door yesterday for Haim Ramon to re-enter Labor while at the same time affording protection to those blamed for the party's humiliating defeat in the Histadrut elections.

The party's political bureau decided after a stormy four-hour special session in the Knesset that it would hold coalition talks only with Ramon and would not strike any deals with the Likud.

After Rabin heard speaker after speaker berate the party leadership for not preventing Ramon's walkout, he announced a readiness "to examine the possibility of an amnesty for all those who defected." He stressed that this would apply not only to Ramon, Amir Peretz and Samuel Ayital, but also to mayoral candidates who challenged various local Labor tickets.

An extraordinary session of the party convention would be called in a few weeks, Rabin explained, "to examine the issue with an eye to healing the rift."

In this he was seen as responding to widespread regret in the party over the break with

Ramon. Only the diehard members of the Shimon Peres faction do not share this sentiment. Rabin, however, did not directly confront Peres nor make any specific concessions to Ramon; he only promised to look into the matter.

Rabin was seen as backing away from any possible confrontation with Peres when he urged that "there be no political executions and no settling of personal accounts."

In this he offered his protection to Peres's chief allies, defeated Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld and party Secretary-General Nissim Zivli, both of whom are directly blamed for pushing Ramon out of the party and causing Labor's electoral defeat.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres offered another explanation for Rabin's reluctance to engage in recriminations. "We know where such a process begins, but not where it ends. Sacking those responsible might begin with Haberfeld and Zivli, but they are not alone and cannot be blamed for everything. Who allowed

the party convention to meet and bury Ramon's health bill, who prevented compromise, who failed to re-appoint Ramon as a minister and prevent his challenge to Labor?" he asked, clearly passing the buck to Rabin and Peres.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer demanded that "steps be taken against responsible for the earthquake which shook Labor... Someone has to pay. It can't just be glossed over... I know that facing this head-on might rekindle the Rabin-Peres feud, but this should be a price we are willing to pay. If this party does not face reality, it will cease to exist."

Rabin faced another outburst when he argued that "local workers councils cannot move on their own and deal with the Likud. If each locality will be a law unto itself, it will hurt the party interests."

He insisted he would head the negotiating team in talks with Ramon and it alone will be allowed to close a deal.

Rabin also expressed the opinion that Labor should transfer the Histadrut reins to Ramon as speedily as possible, not wait for months as Haberfeld wants to do.

IDF prepares to hand over Jericho today

JON IMMANUEL

AFTER a week of hesitation, the Israel-PLO accord moved into high gear yesterday as 20 Palestinian security officers crossed the Allenby Bridge into Jericho, where they huddled with IDF officers preparing to hand over the world's oldest city to the world's newest administration.

Last night 300 more former Palestine Liberation Army veterans were expected from Jordan. They were to go directly to Gaza, where the final IDF pullout is anticipated on Wednesday.

By last night, another 350 police belonging to the Iraq-based Askar Brigade had driven up to the Allenby Bridge and were expected today to cross over to deploy in Jericho, said Col. Y., a member of the Israeli-Palestinian coordinating team. He said this is just the first contingent.

"Our forces are ready and coming every day," said Brig.-Gen. Nasser Yusef, chief of security in Gaza and Jericho. He spoke to the press at the Allenby Bridge terminal in the company of Brig.-Gen. Yomtov Samia, head of the security committee responsible for setting the timetable for transferring power.

By the end of today, all prominent buildings in Jericho — such as the police station and civil administration headquarters — are expected to be flying the Palestinian flag.

Anxious to "assure the Israelis," the PLO published a list of 15 firm members of the 24-member governing council. Israel had demanded a full list before handing over the reins of authority.

Security officials refused to say if the PLO is ready to exercise its new authority, but they were clearly tense before the transfer of power. It will end nearly three decades of Israeli rule over Palestinians, but require continuous coordination between Israel and its former enemy.

"The basic obstacle is to change the state of mind on both sides," said OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran, at a briefing in the District Coordination Office (DCO) south of Jericho. "Beginnings are always difficult and we are going to overcome it."

The success of joint patrols on Route 90, which passes through Jericho, would be the test of the new regime, he said.

The DCO, situated near Vared Yericho, is to be the base and living quarters of the joint patrols. Some of the 20 officers who arrived yesterday will live there, said Col. Y.

Joint training will be the rule, he said. "In Israel, a decision can be relayed to the field commander very quickly. Difficulties of communication could cause misunderstandings, and we must leave no security gap in the area. Every day we are learning new things."

The part of Route 90 to be patrolled jointly is inside the self-rule area. However, there will be "a joint mobile unit" stationed on the road opposite Ouja in the north of the enclave, though "there the road itself is not in the area of self-rule," military sources said.

Yusef drove to Jericho from Gaza for the first time via the Dead Sea, one of four routes permitted to Palestinians. His truck carried the new yellow Gaza police number plate, with the letter P on a red background.

In the south and central Gaza Strip, five bases have been handed over to the PLO: in Deir el-Balah, near Mughazi camp, in Bureij camp, and two in Rafiah. By today, Rafiah and Khan Yunis are expected to be mostly turned over to the Palestinians, followed by Gaza City, Jabalya refugee camp and the rest of the northern Strip by Wednesday.

(Continued on Page 2)

Japhet convicted; sentencing Wednesday

EVELYN GORDON

FORMER Bank Leumi chairman Ernst Japhet was convicted for his part in the 1983 bank shares collapse yesterday, and will be sentenced on Wednesday.


Japhet was found guilty of violating his duties as a bank manager, aggravated fraud, securities fraud, misleading customers, and falsifying corporate documents.

In her five-page verdict, Jerusalem District Court Judge Miriam Naor said that she was merely applying all of the conclusions reached in the original bank shares trial to Japhet's case, since Japhet had chosen not to testify or to submit any new evidence, but rather to rely on the evidence presented in the original case.

Japhet was not tried with the other bankers, who were found guilty in February, because he had fled the country.

Naor also noted that during the

(Continued on Page 4)



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Israel-PLO patrols begin next week

ALON PINKAS

THE first joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols in the Gaza Strip are expected to begin as early as next week, senior army officers in the southern command said yesterday.

The patrols will be conducted under the supervision of the Joint Security Cooperation and Coordination Committee (JSCC) established by the Cairo agreement. The first joint units will patrol main east-west thoroughfares in the Gaza Strip, near the refugee camps of Deir el-Balah and Bureij.

Meanwhile, the IDF yesterday transferred five installations in the Gaza Strip to Palestinian control. Two camps in Rafiah, the adjacent police station, an army base in Deir el-Balah and an outpost in Bureij were handed to Palestinian representatives, although full transfer of power will not be completed until the Palestinian Authority is established.

The transfer of the installations was witnessed by Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, the head of the Planning Branch who played a major role in the negotiations leading to the Cairo agreement, and by the Border Police chief, Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Aharonovich.

Soldier wounded by friendly fire in Gaza

ALON PINKAS

AN IDF soldier was wounded in the knee by friendly fire after an army outpost in the Jabalya refugee camp was fired upon yesterday.

Army source say the assailants were Hamas members from the refugee camp. One was wounded and captured by soldiers, but later managed to escape from Shifa Hospital in Gaza.

The attack occurred at a small observation post inside Jabalya, when two assailants fired at a group of soldiers in it. Soldiers began pursuit, during which one of the attackers kept on shooting. A soldier was hit by his comrades' return fire in the knee, suffering a light to moderate wound.

During the exchange of fire, one of the attackers, Louay Mussa, 17, was wounded, but later succeeded in escaping from the guarded Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Another resident of the camp was later apprehended by soldiers in connection with the attack.



A newly arrived Palestinian policeman is hoisted onto the shoulders of happy Jericho residents yesterday. (Khaled Zighani)

Syria rejects US charges of terrorism prior to Christopher visit

DAMASCUS (Reuters)—Syria accused Washington yesterday of adopting a provocative and aggressive attitude towards Damascus.

The Syrian reaction to a US report that named Syria as a country sponsoring terrorism came three days before Secretary of State Warren Christopher was due to arrive to continue efforts to break a deadlock in negotiations.

The official daily *al-Baath* said the US report might be intended to put pressure on Syria to make concessions at the peace talks.

"Including Syria's name among other countries in the State Department's report is not a good prelude for Christopher's new visit because it is based on contradictions," *al-Baath* said.

The State Department cited Syria among seven countries as "state sponsors of terrorism" in a report published on Monday.

"If this report is intended to put pressure on Syria it should be known that Syria will not submit

to pressure from any side," the newspaper said.

"If the report is issued due to pressure by those who do not wish to see good Syrian-US ties then it is not in the interest of the US to allow such people to interfere in US foreign policy."

Al-Baath said the report on terrorism was biased because it did not include Israel's name as "the biggest terrorist organization in the world."

"Israel is practicing the state terrorism which is the ugliest type of terrorism... Israel occupied the lands of others by aggression and force and rebelled against resolutions of the United Nations," *al-Baath* said.

Christopher, who visited Syria earlier this month, is due to return to Damascus on Sunday to continue discussion of Israeli and Syrian peace proposals.

A Syrian spokesman reiterated Damascus's demand for Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a precondition for a peace settlement.

Palestinian police to guard Jericho yeshiva

HERB KEINON

THE Palestinian Police, not the IDF, will be responsible for providing security for the Jericho yeshiva at the ancient Shalom Al Yisrael synagogue, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran told heads of the yeshiva yesterday.

Mordechai Rabinovitch, the dean of the yeshiva, said he is "shocked and dismayed at the callous attitude toward Israeli citizens who want to do nothing more than study Tora at the yeshiva, as per the agreement."

February's Cairo agreement stipulated that the site would remain under the auspices of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The heads of the yeshiva interpreted this to mean it would be guarded by the IDF, but Biran told them that although the site will be under Israeli authority, security will be in the hands of the Palestinians.

Rabinovitch said the yeshiva will continue to operate, and "we will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure our security."

According to Rabinovitch, Biran said the students would be able to carry weapons.

Ben-Horin released

Michael Ben-Horin, one of nine Jews held under administrative detention following the Hebron massacre, was released from the Sharon prison yesterday.

Ben-Horin, from Moshav Nov on the Golan, petitioned the High Court against his detention, and had his sentence reduced from three to two months.

100 Palestinian policemen off to Gaza

LAMIA LAHOUD

TWO buses carrying about 100 Palestinian policemen crossed the Jordan River over the Allenby Bridge and headed for the Gaza Strip late last night, after resolving a dispute with Israeli officials that had prevented their entry.

"We came for your security and to help build our areas," Brig.-Gen. Saadeh Nadji, who led the first group of 20 policemen to cross the bridge, told the crowd as some Jericho residents tried to kiss him.

Nadji, the deputy of Hajj Ismael, the commander of the Iraqi-based Al Aqsa forces, promised them the police force would move into IDF bases in Jericho today.

Saeed Nadif, a Fatah leader from Jericho, said that the handover of both civilian and security authority would take place today.

The PLO plans to open its security services headquarters in Jericho next week, with Jibril Rajoub.

one of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's advisers for the territories, heading security there, according to a well-informed Fatah leader.

His authority will be extended to include the rest of Judea and Samaria, while Mohammad Dahlan, also known as "The Prince of Gaza," will head security in the Gaza Strip.

The Fatah leader said that the first group of regional leaders of the security service in the territories will leave for a month's training in Egypt later this month.

Some have already completed training there, and will begin service when Dahlan enters Gaza next week, he said.

Excited Jericho residents, some of them in military-style uniforms, had been waiting for the policemen's arrival all day, with Pales-

tinians driving up and down the road in front of the army base at the Vered Jericho junction, honking and waving Palestinian flags.

As Nadji came to address a crowd of Jericho residents, they lifted two Palestinian policemen on their shoulders and asked them to shoot in the air, but they refused.

Nadif said Jamil Tarifi, head of the coordinating committee for civilian affairs, and Palestinian police chief Nasser Yusef, as well as Arafat's adviser Marwan Kanaani, would attend the handover ceremony.

"In Gaza, the police have taken over some of the military courts, and Nasser Yusef ordered Palestinians to give in their arms," said Nadif.

"Maybe we will do the same here in the next two days. We don't have many arms in Jericho, but we need courts to deal with our thieves and other criminals."

Levinger accused of hitting a policeman

HERB KEINON

RABBI Moshe Levinger was questioned by police in Kiryat Arba yesterday about a melee between Jewish and Palestinian children in Hebron, during which he allegedly hit a police officer.

According to Noam Arnon, the spokesman for the settlement in Hebron, between five and 10 children were involved in the fight that took place last week not far from Levinger's home.

Arnon said that Levinger went to the scene after some of the Jew-

ish children told him they were hit by the police. Arnon said Levinger was also hit by the police, and ended up on the ground.

When the police went to Levinger's home yesterday he refused to go with them for questioning, and said he would only go if the children were also questioned about the incident.

Efraim Arditi, deputy commander of the Judea District police, said Levinger and his wife

eventually agreed to go to the Kiryat Arba police station, where they were questioned and released after posting bond. Arditi said that Levinger hit a policeman.

Levinger, who has been arrested a number of times in the past for allegedly rampaging through the Hebron market, has served two jail sentences. He was last arrested in March, soon after the Hebron massacre, and charged with ignoring orders to leave a closed military area in Hebron in 1992.

Three youths detained for desecrating graves

BILL HUTMAN

THREE 14-year-old Arabs have been detained for desecrating dozens of Jewish graves on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem police announced yesterday.

One was first arrested last week, along with four other youths, in connection with stone-throwing incidents.

During his interrogation, he admitted to desecrating the graves, and implicated the other two.

Among the graves desecrated was that of the Gur Rebbe. The desecration sparked threats of a Knesset no-confidence motion by hardline MKs, who charged that security on the Mount of Olives was lax.

In response, the government agreed to allocate NIS 500,000 for a private security company to patrol the cemetery, and police presence was increased.

The three youths were remanded this week until the end of their trial. One has denied involvement.

Meanwhile, the other youths detained for stone-throwing, including two incidents in which drivers were injured, were released by the court because they were under 14, a police spokeswoman said.

The youths were all from the Ras al-Amud neighborhood, which borders the Mount of Olives.

Radio: Probe alleged beating of reporter

LIAT COLLINS

ISRAELI Radio Director Amnon Nadav demanded yesterday that the IDF Spokesman investigate the incident in which territories reporter Motti Amir was allegedly beaten by IDF officers in Jericho on Wednesday.

According to Amir, three officers hit him while he was in a local shop, dragged him outside and kicked him. The officers refused to give their names and said they were following orders to remove journalists by force.

The IDF Spokesman, who has yet to respond to Amir's charges, said that because of security considerations journalists are allowed in the territories only accompanied by IDF personnel. The OC Central Command will meet soon with reporters to discuss the situation, the spokesman's office said.

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Four social workers arrested at demo

Disabled clients join protest in Tel Aviv

POLICE detained four of the several hundred social workers that demonstrated outside Finance Ministry offices in Tel Aviv yesterday, after they attempted to enter the ministry buildings.

Demonstrating with them were some of their disabled clients, the victims of work accidents, who said the social workers' strike - now in its 23 day - had worsened their situation. They called on Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to conclude negotiations with the Association of Social Workers.

Another group of clients who came to lend support to the social workers were parents of children who are institutionalized. They talked of the difficulties their children faced in making any progress because of the strike.

Ra'anana Mayor Ze'ev Bielsky came to the demonstration and called on Prime Minister Rabin to bring the strike to an end. Bielsky stressed that the 9,000 social workers on strike had left hundreds of thousands of families without needed help. The result, he said, was

SASHA SADAN

that many people had brought their problems to Ra'anana City Hall and dozens of other cities, and that the heads of local authorities, for lack of any alternative, had been turned into the only caretakers available.

Thirty MKs sent a bipartisan letter to Finance Minister Shohat urging him to intervene personally "in the crisis" so that wage director Shalom Granit and the social workers would come to some solution. The letter expressed support for the social workers' "just demands."

Support from another union came in the form of a letter sent by the head of the works committee of the Israel Electric Corporation, Yoram Oberkovitz, who said IEC workers stood behind the social workers.

At the beginning of the week the strike headquarters of the Association of Social Workers had said it would toughen its stand and not allow its members to intervene in the

kinds of cases where emergency care had been given during the first two weeks of the strike.

Yesterday, said union spokesman David Ziso, an appeal for a youth investigator who handles alleged sexual crimes was turned down in the case of a five-year-old who came to nursery school with signs of inflammation around her sexual parts.

Ziso said the case - "in one of the better neighborhoods in the center of the country" - had led police to make an urgent request for a youth investigator because there had already been an earlier allegation of incest against the father in respect to the girl's older sister. The police reportedly fear the father will skip the country, Ziso said, but without the child's testimony, which can only be taken by a specially trained social worker, no restraining order can be issued.

Ziso said the headquarters also refused to intervene in the case of another girl, six, who was examined by a psychologist who believed the child had been sexually molested at home.

Rabbi's defamation suit against Polish cardinal upheld

SEATTLE (Reuters) - A Washington state judge has refused to dismiss a defamation lawsuit brought by a New York rabbi over anti-semitic remarks allegedly made by Polish Cardinal Jozef Glemp.

King County Superior Court Judge Robert Lasnik ruled that Glemp had been properly served with notice of the lawsuit while in Seattle for a visit last year and that the rabbi, Avi Weiss, had been unable to obtain justice in Poland.

The case stems from statements allegedly made by Glemp, head of the Roman Catholic church in Poland, in August 1989, shortly after Weiss and six of his students were forcibly ejected from the site of the Auschwitz death camp, where they had gone to protest the existence of a Carmelite convent.

In a homily that was widely reported at the time in newspapers, magazine and broadcast media, Glemp allegedly made a number

of anti-semitic remarks.

According to court documents, Glemp also said that Weiss and his students had attacked the convent and implied they would have killed the nuns if they had not been restrained.

In November 1989, Weiss, represented by famed attorney Alan Dershowitz, tried to sue Glemp for defamation in Poland, but the case and an appeal were dismissed without any hearing.

In 1991, a federal court in New York dismissed a second lawsuit Weiss brought against Glemp, saying the Polish primate had not been served properly with papers.

In October 1993, process servers got within several feet of Glemp before being ejected from the Seattle rectory where he was eating breakfast, said Steven Hemmat, a Seattle lawyer representing Weiss.

After waiting outside for two

hours, the servers stood outside a window of the building where Glemp could see them and shout in Polish and English. "Josef Glemp, you have been served," Weiss said. Glemp acknowledged their presence and they left the papers on the window ledge outside the room.

Hemmat said Lasnik's ruling made it likely the defamation action could proceed.

"Rabbi Weiss is very pleased with what has gone on," Hemmat said.

He said Lasnik is expected to rule next week on whether the court has personal jurisdiction over Glemp and whether the statute of limitations has expired.

While Weiss was in the courtroom, Glemp didn't appear and has yet to make a response to the defamation lawsuit other than to seek to have it dismissed. Hemmat said.

Court: Yad Vashem fair on memorials

EVELYN GORDON

YAD VASHEM does not unfairly discriminate against indigents by erecting memorial tombstones only for Holocaust victims whose families can pay, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

It was responding to a petition by survivor Uri Hoffert, who argued that since Yad Vashem is a government-supported institution which exists to memorialize all Holocaust victims, it has no right to create any type of memorial which all victims can't share in.

Justices Aharon Barak, Theodore Orr and Mishael Cheshin agreed Yad Vashem does have an obligation to all victims, but said it fulfills this obligation in two ways: through its general memorials, and by having rosters with the names of each individual victim.

The tombstones, which Yad Vashem started at the request of some of the victims' families, were merely an "extra," not a necessity, they wrote, and demanding payment is an unfair form of discrimination only if it is for an essential service or a basic right.

Furthermore, the institution's limited budget does not allow it to pay for the tombstones by itself, and the contribution demanded - \$450 to \$800 per stone - is not unreasonable, the justices said.

In fact, since some of the income from the tombstones contributes to Yad Vashem's general budget, "the public as a whole... benefits from the contribution," they wrote.

However, they added, because of the sensitivity of the issue, "it would be appropriate for Yad Vashem to consider" discounts for those who really couldn't afford the price.



Reuma Weizman (r) and Ruth Dayan look at a sculpture by Chana Orloff in the gardens of Beit Hanassi. (Brian Hendler)

Public invited to exhibition at Beit Hanassi

"We invite the people of Israel to visit Jerusalem during this traditional season of pilgrimage and to see these works of art," First Lady Reuma Weizman said yesterday as she opened a sculpture exhibition by Chana Orloff in the gardens of Beit Hanassi.

The presidential residence will be open to groups of new immigrants and veterans on Tuesday, to mark Shavuot and the first anniversary of President Ezer Weizman's term of office, and the visitors will be able to view the exhibit.

BATSHEVA TSUR

"This is the first of the exhibitions we hope to hold here in order to bring Israeli art to a wider public," Reuma Weizman told the audience which included the president, the Speaker of the Knesset, members of the Orloff family, artists and art-lovers.

The exhibit was brought from the Open Museum of Tefen, but also includes works from private collections. Because it is being held in the gardens, it includes only bronze statues.

The monumental work "The Sower," one of a series on the theme of the Israeli working woman, was cast in bronze specially for the exhibit and will be left permanently at Beit Hanassi as a gift from entrepreneur Stef Wertheimer.

Orloff was born in Ukraine in 1888 and settled with her parents in Petah Tikva in 1905. She studied drawing and sculpture in Paris and continued to work there but returned frequently to Israel, where she died in 1968.

Accused wiretapper: 'Yediot' did the same

RAINE MARCUS

RAFI Friedan, one of the private investigators charged with tapping phones of senior *Ma'ariv* and *Yediot Aharonot* employees, yesterday accused *Yediot*'s editor Moshe Vardi and coordinator Ruti Ben-Ari of tapping former editor Dov Yudekovsky's phone shortly after the latter joined the rival *Ma'ariv* in 1992.

During a heated debate in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday to decide whether to lift a publishing ban on the list of around 400 people whose cellular phones were allegedly tapped, Friedan's lawyer Motti Katz suddenly accused *Yediot* of tapping its former employee's phones.

Friedan said that he did not personally tap Yudekovsky's phone but his company received the order. But in a written statement *Yediot* editor Moshe Vardi rejected the investigator's claims.

"What was done in court this morning was a depraved attempt to change the direction of the investigation and besmirch the newspaper," the statement said.

Over the last few days, wrote Vardi, *Yediot* had been threatened that if the paper did not withdraw its request to expose the list of those allegedly tapped, the reputations of the paper and its senior employees would be blackened.

"Such an attempt was made this morning," wrote Vardi. "The fact is that the paper rejected such threats, and did not cancel its petition to the court and believes that the police investigation will expose the activities of the defendants and

the person they acted for." Army Radio said that Yudekovsky, today the head of a journalism school, was not aware his phone was tapped.

Friedan is refusing to tell investigators who ordered the bugs.

Ma'ariv and *Ha'aretz* also petitioned the court to lift the ban but Katz accused *Yediot* of not "having clean hands."

"The paper has petitioned the court to lift the publishing ban under the pretext of 'the public's right to know' and because of the severity of the crimes," said Katz. "This is the epitome of hypocrisy."

Katz argued that if the list was released for publication it may endanger his client and his work.

Lawyer Penina Devorin, acting for the second defendant, private investigator Ya'acov Tsur, also objected to publishing the list.

"Lifting the ban constitutes an invasion of privacy," said Devorin, whose client maintains his innocence. "My client has only been charged with tapping three phones."

The prosecution, which initially requested the ban, now has no objection to publishing the list, "but without the phone numbers."

"Originally we thought publication may be a violation of privacy," but circumstances have changed, said the prosecution. "The police are now trying to trace people mentioned in the list."

Judge Zecharia Caspi postponed his ruling until Sunday.

JAPHET

(Continued from Page 1)

original trial, she had found Japhet to be "an extremely dominant figure" in the manipulation.

Prosecutor Ya'akov Cohen said that in light of Naor's decision to sentence the other senior bankers to actual prison terms, as well as fines, the state was requesting the same for Japhet. There were even reasons why Japhet's punishment should be more severe, he said, such as the fact that he was the head of the largest bank in Israel, and therefore, unlike Raphael Recanat of Bank Discount, could more easily have stopped the manipulation.

Recanat and Leumi's number two man, Mordechai Einhorn, were both sentenced to eight months in prison and a NIS 600,000 fine.

However, Cohen said, there were also reasons for leniency - the fact that Japhet had come back from abroad to stand trial, and had saved the court's time by agreeing to accept all the evidence from the original trial as valid; and the fact that at 73, he is the oldest of the defendants.

Japhet's attorney, Yigal Arnon, responded with an impassioned plea for leniency.

"On the one hand, there is the principle of equality [with the other bankers]," he said. "But equality between non-equals is inequality."

Arnon said that Japhet had suffered far more than the other bankers during the 10 years which have elapsed since the collapse, because, as the country's leading banker, he bore the brunt of the public's anger.

"There is not a person in the country... who has not brought up Japhet's name, and not in a positive light," he said.

Furthermore, he noted, the other bankers found other jobs here and remained leaders of the Israeli economy. In contrast, he said, Japhet was forced to go abroad, because no one would take him on their board of directors for fear of drawing the public's wrath.

Losing his job at Leumi was also particularly hard on Japhet, Arnon said, since he was someone for whom banking "was not a job, but a way of life."

Arnon also cited Japhet's very substantial contributions to the economy - one of the other bankers had described Japhet as "virtually saving the state" - as a reason for leniency.

Finally, he said, there was the question of intent.

"If Japhet had wanted to stop the manipulation, he would have stopped it," Arnon said. However, he said, Japhet sincerely believed that stopping the manipulation would endanger the economy - a belief in which he was encouraged by the authorities' failure to demand corrective action. While he might have been mistaken, Arnon said, a man in Japhet's position would not have been fulfilling his responsibility if, believing as he did, he hadn't continued the manipulation.

US Senate votes to lift Bosnia arms embargo

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Senate voted 50-49 yesterday to order President Clinton to seek international agreement on ending the UN-mandated arms embargo against Bosnia's Muslims.

The Senate immediately began to vote on a second proposal that would require the president to lift the US arms embargo even without such agreement.

Although Clinton has favored allowing the Bosnian Muslims to arm themselves against the Serbs, he opposes unilateral action and America's NATO allies are against lifting the arms ban.

The legislation approved by the Senate was proposed by Demo-

cratic Leader George Mitchell to counter a unilateral plan offered by Republican Leader Bob Dole. It would require Clinton to seek agreement with NATO and go to the UN to try to get the ban lifted.

The House of Representatives would have to act before either plan could go to the president, who could veto any plan he did not like.

Bosnian Serbs, trying to defuse a row with France, indicated yesterday they would free 11 French charity volunteers accused of smuggling arms for Muslims in an aid convoy.

But the main UN aid agency, wary of Serb action, said it was not

returning its foreign staff to Serb-held territories in Bosnia until further notice.

Tension remained high in northern Bosnia following a report of a fifth attack in tit-for-tat shelling of two towns held by Bosnian Serbs and forces of Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

One UN military observer (UNMO) was killed and another wounded yesterday when they came under fire near Visoko on the edge of the Sarajevo exclusion zone. A Bosnian army soldier was also injured. The UN has still not apportioned blame for the attack which came as the UNMO's vehicle got stuck on the road.

Thai censors approve 'Schindler's List'

BANGKOK (AP) - The Police Censorship Board yesterday approved the screening of the acclaimed Holocaust film *Schindler's List* after having initially objected to a fleeting nude scene.

"This film was produced with good intentions so it should be shown uncut in order not to cause distress to moviegoers," said Samer Boonyawan, a board member who voted to approve showing the movie without cuts. The board voted 5-4 in favor.

Samer said the film depicted the humanity of one man amid the cruelty of war.

The Academy Award-winning epic will premiere in Bangkok tomorrow, a week later than originally scheduled due to the controversy.

The censorship board at first objected to a scene of about 10 seconds involving Schindler and his mistress.

The distributor, United International Pictures, asked the board to reconsider. The distributor is bound by director Steven Spielberg's demand that the film be shown in its entirety or not at all.

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The new Sunday supplement to The Jerusalem Post

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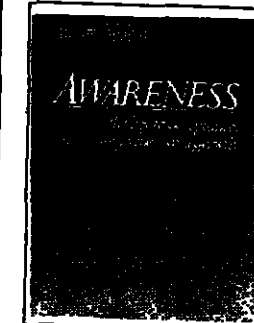
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Deepest sympathy on the death of

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Prof. ERNEST NACHUM EHRENFELD ז"ל

dearly beloved head of our family
a memorial meeting will be held at 5 p.m.
on Wednesday, May 18, 1994, at the graveside,
on Har Hamenuhot, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.

The Family

With deep sorrow we announce the untimely death
of our son and dear one

MICHAEL PEARL

The funeral will take place on
Sunday, May 15, 1994 at 12:30 p.m.
at the Sde Yehoshua (Neve David) Cemetery, Haifa.
Entrance at Gate 1A.

Aliza and Leon Pearl

North Yemen claims brigade captured, advancing on Aden

SAN'A (AP) — The north yesterday claimed it had captured a southern brigade and was continuing its advance on the southern stronghold of Aden as Yemen's civil war entered its second week. However, the claim could not be independently confirmed. The north since Saturday has said it was on the verge of seizing Aden, a claim that appears to have been exaggerated.

Eight days into the civil war in this impoverished nation on the Arabian peninsula's cape it was impossible to tell who had the upper hand — northern forces backing President Ali Abdullah Saleh, or supporters of former Vice President Ali Salem al-Beidh, the southern leader.

Yemen had been lurching toward war since August when al-Beidh stalked out of San'a amid a deepening rift with Saleh and returned to his southern stronghold. Al-Beidh claims that Saleh was seeking to dominate the infant democracy and was deliberately blocking integration to marginalize the south.

The conflict could doom the May 1990 union between conservative North Yemen and the socialist south which forged the Arab world's youngest democracy and created the Arabian peninsula's most populous state.

Foreigners continued to flee the war-torn nation, with thousands having left yesterday. Britain sent two army Hercules C-130 transport planes to San'a to evacuate more than 100 Britons.

The British Broadcasting Corp. broadcast an urgent message dur-

ing the night asking British citizens to assemble at the Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa.

About 150 people congregated, including a number of Americans and other Europeans. The first evacuation of Britons took place two days ago with a British Airways flight.

The Foreign Office decided to launch yesterday's rescue mission because surface-to-surface missile attacks have intensified.

On Wednesday, a southern Scud missile hit a densely populated area on San'a's northern outskirts, killing 25 people and wounding several dozen. The north vowed revenge.

"This cowardly, treacherous act will not go unpunished," Saleh was quoted as saying by northern-run San'a radio after he announced the casualty toll.

In yesterday's claim broadcast on San'a radio, the north claimed its forces deployed in what it called the "southwest axis" captured the south's 25th Mechanized Brigade, seizing tanks, artillery, equipment and vehicles. It said a number of southern officers and men surrendered.

In the Abyan area east of Aden, the north claimed it had inflicted huge losses on forces allied to the south and pushed them back. The south on Wednesday claimed it was fully in control of the province.

Also Wednesday, the south appealed for humanitarian intervention in the conflict that has produced competing casualty claims ranging from a few hundred to 12,000 killed or wounded.

British opposition leader Smith dies suddenly

Setback to a revitalized Labor

LONDON (Reuters) — British Labor leader John Smith, the strait-laced Scottish lawyer who hoped to guide his party out of the political wilderness after 15 years in opposition, died of a massive heart attack yesterday at the age of 55.

The news shocked the British political establishment, bringing emotional tributes from political friends and enemies alike.

Smith, who recovered from heart surgery in 1988 and took over the dispirited Labor Party after its fourth consecutive election loss in 1992, collapsed with chest pains at his London home.

Ironically, he died in the emergency unit of London's Saint Bartholomew's hospital, which he had been battling to save from closure by the ruling Conservatives of Prime Minister John Major.

His sudden death adds a new dimension to British politics at a time when Labor is riding high in opinion polls.

Major's grip on power looks increasingly shaky and Smith's lifelong political dream of power seemingly set to finally come true.

Major, Smith's fierce adversary across the floor of the House of Commons, paid a fulsome tribute to his political foe, saying: "In public we frequently clashed in the heat of debate. In private we met often and amicably."

Margaret Thatcher, deposed by the Conservatives in 1990 as an election liability, said of Smith:

"His courage, humor and fundamental decency made him one of the best-liked and respected political leaders. We shall all miss him."

Neil Kinnock, Smith's predecessor as Labor leader, was close to tears as he paid his tribute in a voice shaking with emotion.

One week ago, Labor recorded a resounding triumph over the Conservatives in local council elections and enjoyed a 25-point lead in opinion polls. It is expected to emerge the big victor again in next month's European parliamentary elections.

Smith, who won praise in parliament as a witty and incisive debater, had been hoping Labor could finally win round the crucial middle-class voters in Britain and become prime minister in the next general election due by 1997.

The robust Smith went on a rigorous keep-fit campaign after his 1988 heart attack, mountain-climbing in his beloved Scotland where only last month he badly injured his ankle.

Smith — the man with the most common name in Britain revelled in his very ordinariness.

His image was that of a small-town bank manager but behind the owl's exterior was a cunning political brain that steered the Labor Party to a commanding lead in the opinion polls just two years after its fourth general election defeat in a row.

Smith, who replaced Neil Kin-



Britain's opposition leader John Smith is seen here in September 1993 with his wife Elizabeth and daughters Jane and Sarah. (Reuters file)

nock after that defeat in April 1992, embarked on the task of devising an election-winning formula to attract the crucial middle-class vote that had kept the Conservatives in power since 1979.

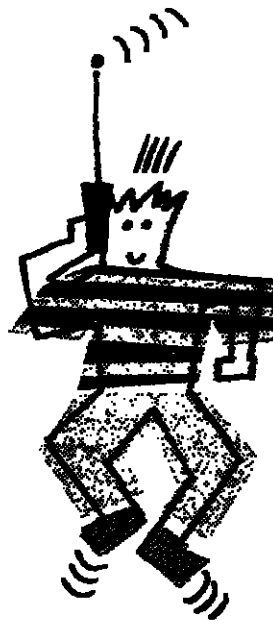
With Labor now enjoying a commanding 25-point lead in the polls, Smith was increasingly confident that his strategy was working and that he was destined to be prime minister.

"He deserved to be prime minister. It's a massive injustice that he now will plainly not get that chance because he would have been a great leader of the nation. I've no doubt at all about that," Kinnock, close to tears.

His death highlighted the stresses and strains faced by politicians. Last June leading Conservative Michael Heseltine suffered a heart attack while holidaying in Venice.

He had been widely tipped as a possible successor to the beleaguered Major who surprised the pundits with his shock 1992 election victory but has been buffeted ever since by policy U-turns and party mutinies.

Labor leader Hugh Gaiskell died in 1963 from a virus infection. He was succeeded by Harold Wilson who took Labor back to power.



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'Bogus' president in Haiti condemned

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The installation of a new president in Haiti, condemned by the White House as bogus, cynical and illegal, yesterday put the island's military leaders on a collision course with the United States and the international community.

The swearing-in of an elderly pro-military Supreme Court judge plucked from obscurity infuriated Clinton officials and members of Congress.

The sight of 81-year-old Ezile Jonassaint taking the oath of office before an audience of dignitaries, and with the clear approval of the junta that has ruled the country since a 1991 coup, gave new impetus to calls for US military action to restore exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"The Haitian military once again thumbed its nose at the United States. It has drawn a line in the sand," Senator Tom Harkin, an Iowa Democrat, declared.

Representative Carrie Meek, a Democrat from Florida, was even more blunt. "There's no more time for pussyfooting. It's time to get the job done," she said.

Clinton's aides continued to deny that he had decided to send troops to oust Haiti's military leaders, at the same time refusing to flatly reject the option. They did concede American forces would be needed there eventually, at least to help rebuild the country.

"Certainly, no decision has been made to send in a small force to purge military leaders," White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said. She was speaking in response to a Los Angeles Times report that the government planned to dispatch 600 heavily

armed and protected troops to dislodge the junta led by Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras.

"The use of force the president is not willing to rule out," Myers added.

Anthony Lake, Clinton's national security adviser, said that the military was making a mistake by "locking" on to the wrong course.

"They should not be locking themselves into unconstitutional, illegal moves like this," he said in an interview with the NBC "Today" program Wednesday that was broadcast yesterday.

By backing the presidency of Jonassaint, the junta has in effect defied Clinton to do something about it. The danger in continually hinting at military action yet not following through, is that the generals, by refusing to leave, may eventually force the Administration's hand.

The appointment of Jonassaint, seen as an attempt to complete the ouster of Aristide and set up a puppet head of state, drew strong negative reaction.

"This is a blatant attempt ... no doubt at the behest of the military, to install a bogus de facto government. It will not divert the international community from pursuing the restoration of democracy in Haiti and the return of President Aristide," Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott told the Organisation of American States (OAS) Wednesday.

The appointment of Jonassaint, who accepted what he called "his constitutional duty" as he was sworn in, totally disregarded the legitimacy of the election of Aristide, administration officials said.

South Africa takes day off

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — South Africa took a day off on yesterday following weeks of momentous change that ushered in black majority rule and buried the country's apartheid past.

With shops, banks, businesses and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange closed for Ascension Day — a religious public holiday — South Africans took a breather from politics and some looked ahead to their return to the world of international sport.

South African Rugby Football Union president Dr Louis Luyt, welcoming England's national rugby union team, said the peaceful all-race elections had ensured that the 1995 Rugby World Cup would be held in South Africa.

"I don't think the World Cup is even in question any more. We are now one people and one nation. You are coming to tranquility and a wonderfully peaceful land," he told the England squad at an arrival news conference.

South Africa, emerging from decades of international sporting isolation, sends its own national rugby union team — the Springboks — to New Zealand next month and hoping to stage the 2004 Olympic Games.

In the only real political comment of the day, the new police minister in Nelson Mandela's na-

tional unity government told a radio interviewer he planned to re-vamp the police — a force tainted by the excesses of the country's apartheid past.

"We are dealing with 11 policing agencies in the country, which have to be amalgamated into one police service," Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said. "A priority for me is the establishment of structures that are going to drive that."

In what appears to be part of an African National Congress strategy to break with the unhappy past, the name of Mufamadi's ministry has been changed from the ministry of law and order.

South Africa's white-run police earned a reputation for brutality during the years they enforced apartheid and they are still widely mistrusted in black townships.

They tortured political detainees — sometimes to death as with black consciousness leader Steve Biko — and shot dead hundreds and possibly thousands of anti-apartheid demonstrators. Mandela, in charge after his ANC won a landslide victory in the elections, named a government of national unity on Wednesday with 27 ministers and 12 deputy ministers.

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The Yemen example

ISRAELIS are much too concerned about the Cairo agreement, the security arrangements in Gaza, the influx of thousands of PLO troops into the self-rule areas, and the presence of foreign observers in Hebron to worry about remote Yemen. That northern and southern Yemenis are killing each other on the tip of the Arabian peninsula seems to merit no more attention than the genocidal civil war in Rwanda. Only the firing of Scuds on Sana'a, which evoked memories of Iraqi Scuds bombarding Israel, may have given Israelis pause.

But the war in Yemen cannot be viewed as irrelevant. If nothing else, the awaited arrival in Gaza of PLO cadres trained in Yemen should remind Israelis of the role Sana'a and Aden have played in training Palestinian terrorists. It was a role which was thought to have ended when in May 1990 the two Yemens, the Islamic north and the Marxist south, decided to unite.

What happened next had the world open-mouthed in disbelief. The union between the two Yemens survived the need to absorb nearly a million Yemeni workers expelled from Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War as punishment for Yemen's support for Saddam Hussein. (It was a vast population transfer hardly noticed by the world media: such an arbitrary act of savage cruelty by its Saudi allies was not something the West wanted to hear about.) Yet united Yemen did not just survive this blow to its national economy and pride. Within two years after the Gulf War, against all expectations, Yemen boldly declared an open, democratic election.

In April 1993, observed by international monitors, the unified country went to the polls. About 80 percent of its 2.7 million registered voters elected 301 members of the legislature from among 3,545 candidates fielded by more than 40 parties. Of the 50 women who ran, two were actually elected. It was the first real general election not only in the Ara-

bian peninsula but in the whole Arab world. At the time the world gave President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the northern leader and the moving spirit in the unification, all the credit he deserved. That Saleh not only held an open election but proposed amending Yemen's constitution to limit the president to two terms made him a veritable hero. Incredible Westerners were sure that at last true democracy had penetrated the Arab world.

But now Saleh is being accused of tyranny. The southern leader and former vice-president Ali Salem Beidh, charges him with attempting to turn Yemen into a dictatorship. Saleh in turn says that Beidh, "that murderer, criminal chieftain of a secessionist, treasonous gang," wishes to reduplicate the country so that he can be south Yemen's sole ruler. As is often the case in such wars, both sides claim near-victory. The reports of casualties range from a few hundred to 12,000.

This is not what the democratic revolution was supposed to bring. Only a year ago the *New York Times* hailed the election as a sign that "the yeast of change is at work even on the world's most tradition-bound peninsula." Those who argued at the time that local political traditions, often described as despotism tempered by assassination, were incompatible with free speech and minority rights were deemed hopeless pessimists who could not discern fateful world changes.

Happless Yemen may be a unique case. But perhaps its story should serve as a warning that "one election does not a democracy make." Cultural, political and religious traditions are often far more powerful than a change effected for the sake of currying favor with the rich democracies. To work, democracy must be entrenched, not only in national institutions but in the national soul.

It may be salutary to remember this when Yasser Arafat, heading troops trained in Libya, Iraq and Yemen, talks of Palestinian democracy living side by side with Israel.

Haiti pushes its luck

WHILE most of the world's recent attention on war zones has been focused on Bosnia, Rwanda and Yemen, the United States has been quietly and inexorably drawn into a crisis on the Caribbean doorstep in Haiti. In a calculated snub to American, United Nations and world opinion, the military dictators on that benighted island have just appointed a puppet "provisional president." The obscure 81-year-old, pro-military judge is an illegal stand-in for Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the popular elected president who was ousted by the military to world condemnation in a 1991 coup.

Washington is rapidly approaching a major decision-time in its post-Cold War attitude to world problems such as Haiti. The Haitian military - one of the most corrupt and brutal in a world of nasty regimes - has been quick to take advantage of US embarrassment in the Somali debacle and the distaste of the US public for further foreign military adventures.

President Clinton's dilemma is genuine. As the first US president to face such far-reaching changes in the world order, he is hampered both by his inexperience in foreign affairs and by a particularly hostile domestic media that seem more adept at trying to tie his shoelaces together than intelligently surveying the possible paths for action that lie ahead. When he is cautious, he is damned as a weak former draft-dodger. When he considers action he is damned for trying to prove he has backbone

on military matters, whatever the cost.

But since he was elected to represent in policy the views of contemporary Americans, he is no more ambivalent than those who elected him. It would be hard to find an American family which thinks a son's life is worth risking in quagmires like Bosnia or Haiti. Yet the same family will rail in frustration at ghastly television images of death and starvation from these places and ask why the government doesn't do something.

The half-way house between indifference and intervention is to do something humanitarian - which is what the Western powers have tried to do in Bosnia and Somalia. But the combatants in such places are always the first to bite the hands that feed them - and then gloat because the West, unlike them, has democratic constraints on retaliatory action.

Ironically, many American liberals have become hawks for intervention in Haiti and Bosnia, while conservatives support the "who needs it" line. Typical this week was the comment made by Democratic Representative Carrie Meek of Florida: "There's no more time for pussyfooting [in Haiti]. It's time to get the job done." In the end, the situation in Haiti, especially the refugee problem, may become so barbarous that Washington will have no civilized alternative but to intervene. If it comes to that, Clinton should be given credit not for dithering, but for being judicious, and then supported to the hilt.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHAME ON YOU!

Sir. - This admonition is for the editor, the newspaper at large and for Netty C. Gross in particular, the free-lance author of the article "An embarrassment of riches" (Opinion, April 29). An intelligent reader can only surmise that Gross is grossly uninformed or carries one or two enormous chips on her shoulders.

As an American Jew, I resent her insulting phrases such as waspy (which should also offend non-Jews), shmatte kings, frumpies and other innuendoes that paint a negative, downright demeaning picture of an American Jewish community. Add to that the hideous Nazi-like cartoon accompanying the article reminiscent of the antisemitic posters circulated in Europe before World War II.

I do not live in Lawrence, Long Island, but I do have some connections with the community on an educational level. Had Gross done her homework, she would have discovered a community rich in traditional Jewish observance, boasting several well-attended synagogues of different denominations, an increase in kosher restaurants and foodstores and an exceptionally fine traditional Jewish day-school from nursery through 12th grade, most of whose graduates spend at least one year studying in Israel. The adult community has strong ties to Israel which is evident through its support of

UJA-Federation, Israel Bonds and its business connections. Hardly a family in the community has not been to Israel many times as tourists, to visit children who have made aliyah or to celebrate a child's bar/bat mitzva.

An informed Jew with some knowledge of Torah understands that one of the worst sins one can commit is to embarrass another human being. Gross has succeeded in committing such a sin against an entire community and so has *The Jerusalem Post* for permitting such a trashing to appear.

SUSAN RACHLIN,
Director, Special Projects,
Board of Jewish Education,
of Greater New York
New York.

OP-ED PAGES

Sir. - The existence of an English-language newspaper such as yours makes all the difference in the life of a person like me, who came to live here after the age of 40. And - though mostly personally in disagreement with your editorials - as a philosophy teacher, I am rather fond of the op-ed pages where a variety of opinions find expression.

BEATE ZILVERSMIT
Tel Aviv.

THE MACHPELA CAVE

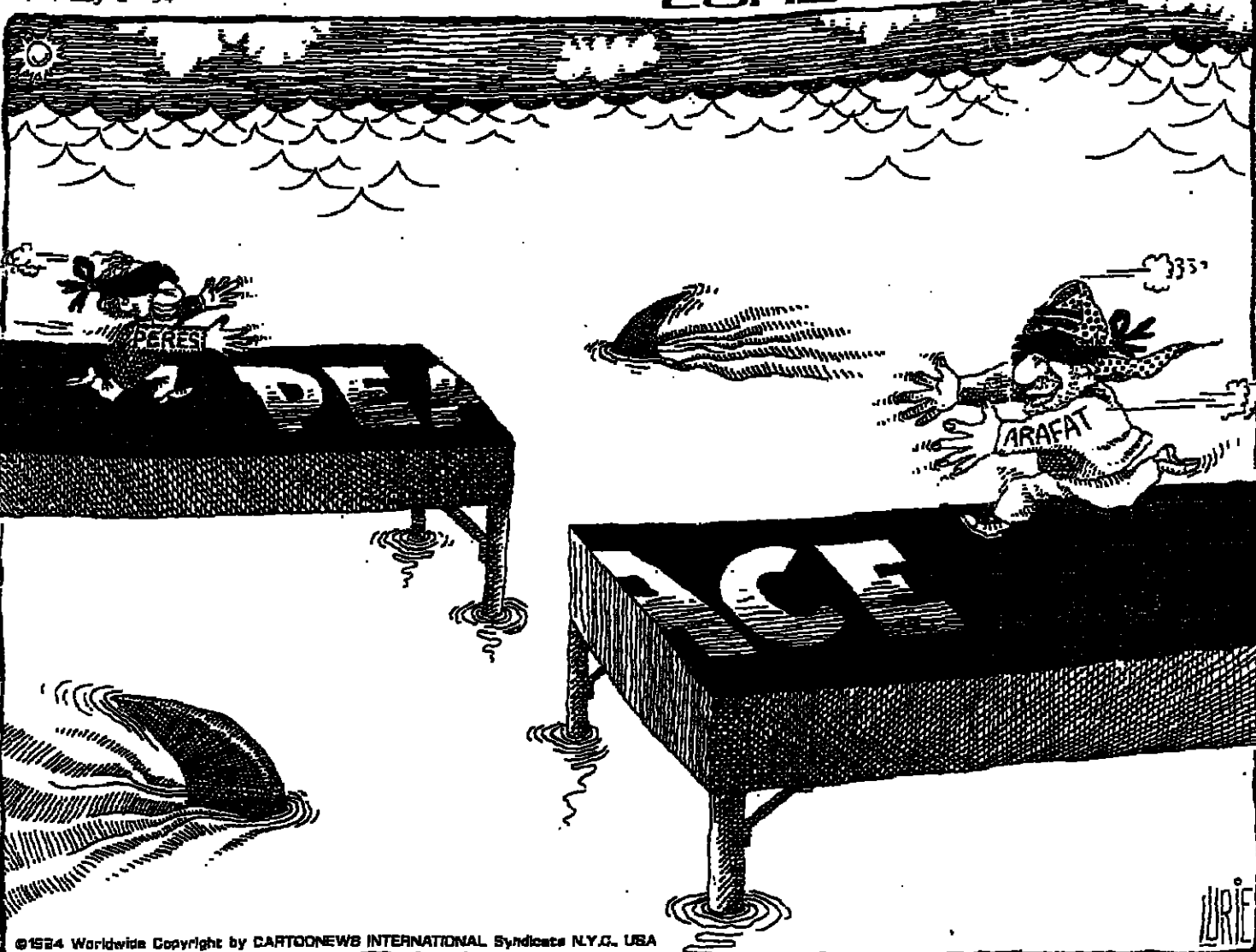
Sir. - While one or more members of the present Israeli government question the nature of our special ties with the Machpela Cave, it is interesting to observe what the Ben-Gurion government in 1950 wrote in a formal memorandum presented in the UN. The memorandum was submitted, and probably drafted, by the then Israeli ambassador to the UN, Abba Eban. The relevant paragraph reads as follows:

"The Government of Israel recalls that the Western Wall (Wailing Wall), which is the main Jewish shrine hallowed by religious associations for thousands of years, as well as two other places holy to Jews and held in deep reverence by them over countless generations - Rachel's Tomb near Jerusalem and the Cave of Machpela in Hebron - are also in territory controlled by Jordan. Under any international arrangement, Jewish rights regarding these places and access thereto must be fully and effectively safeguarded."

Obviously enough, earlier Israeli governments, even of the Labor Party, had a very different appreciation of the historical and religious ties of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel, Jerusalem, and other Holy Sites.

SHLOMO SLONIM
Jerusalem.

N/18 May 2 '94



"We finally did it! We built the bridge!"

Mideast theater of the absurd

WARREN Christopher's upcoming shuttle between Jerusalem and Damascus symbolizes the end of a dream which began at Madrid in 1991: direct peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Basic differences between Israel and Syria are over more than just territory. The clash is between Israel's concept of direct talks leading to permanent peace and Syria's Ba'athist ideology. This holds that even if a situation requires an accommodation with Israel, the process should be conducted through a third party, so as to avoid full "acceptance" of Israel.

On the eve of Madrid, American diplomats won a significant point when Syrian President Hafez Assad, having no other choice, agreed to direct talks with Israel. But not even this stopped the Syrians demanding American intervention in the negotiations.

Israel proposed holding the talks on the Israeli-Syrian border, or alternating sessions in each country. The Syrians refused, not wanting to stamp the negotiations with the character of talks between neighboring countries.

The result was that from Madrid on, the talks were held in Washington - which deluded the Syrians into believing they were close to attaining their objective of generating American pressure on Israel. This hampered the talks' progress.

Then came the turnaround. Direct talks were replaced by a Syrian-American dialogue parallel to an Israeli-American one, with both parties vying for favors from the Americans in return for any change in their positions.

This is the background to the secretary's upcoming shuttle. It signifies the end of direct negotiations, although Jerusalem still believes that direct talks will be resumed in Washington.

An even more pronounced shift has occurred on the Palestinian track.

Madrid determined that the Palestinian representation would be based on:

- their being part of a joint delegation with the Jordanians, the intention being to conclude a settlement in a Jordanian framework;
- their delegates being residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, and

would be more willing to work toward a settlement than the Tunis leadership.

The result of this 180-degree turnaround was the Oslo agreement with the PLO, instead of an agreement with the Palestinians in the territories. It was a deal with the organization the Madrid Con-

ference had ruled out as a negotiating partner.

This change ultimately generated an absurd situation: Israel helping the PLO take control of Gaza and Jericho, over the heads of the local leadership. It isn't the residents of the territories who have been recruited into the Palestinian police, but soldiers of the "Palestine Liberation Army," scattered throughout bases in Iraq, Yemen and Libya and receiving their salaries from Yasser Arafat.

It won't be the local Palestinian leadership which appoints the Palestinian interim authority, but Arafat.

To overcome the local leadership's resistance - the joyous demonstrations in the street notwithstanding - Arafat is holding out a carrot: the appointment of a Jerusalem Palestinian to the authority.

The suggested nomination of Faisal Husseini to be in charge of the authority's "Jerusalem portfolio" borders on a violation of the PLO's promise that Jerusalem would not be discussed during the interim phase, only in the final status talks.

Perhaps Husseini and Arafat will finally make peace, at Israel's expense. Perhaps they will join

MOSHE ZAK

together to put a spoke in Jerusalem's wheel. But such a reconciliation wouldn't change the fact that the local leadership in the territories boycotted the May 4 signing ceremony in Cairo.

It wasn't because of some quibble over the map of the Jericho district or the absence of a Palestinian policeman on the Allenby Bridge that they stayed away. They wanted to send Arafat a message that they wouldn't surrender their leadership positions to those coming from abroad.

They fear that under the umbrella of the PLO forces, the outcome of the elections - if they are held - is a foregone conclusion. Even though, prior to Israeli recognition of the PLO, the local leadership consulted with Arafat, this didn't mean they were relinquishing their right to be part of the decision-making.

Furthermore, the Palestinians were never offered the kind of concessions Israel made to Arafat. So the PLO leader cannot claim that since he is ready for an agreement with Israel, it is Israel's duty to support him in the face of his opponents.

In any event, it's doubtful whether Israel has the moral right to help impose an outside ruler on the local Palestinians.

This may not work in practice. A leader foisted on the Palestinians with Israeli help would need constant propping up through concessions on vital issues, especially on the representation of Jerusalem Arabs on the self-rule governing council. This will be based on the claim that he must pacify the local population.

The three-way handshake with Presidents Weizman and Mandel won't see Arafat through the complex problems of governance. Meanwhile, he has laid the Madrid formula to rest - permanently.

Dumping the Oslo agreement will come later.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

The opposition's selective memory

ABBA EBAN

LIKUD leaders have no moral or intellectual right to campaign with such virulence against the Israel-Palestinian accord.

The Cairo agreement and the Oslo accords are a cautious, watered-down version of the more effusive commitment made to the Palestinian people by Menachem Begin at Camp David in 1978.

If a Palestinian state emerges from the peace process, any historian who values academic integrity will have to designate Menachem Begin as its unwilling founding father.

Consider the formulations which the Likud leadership persuaded the Knesset to endorse in the Camp David accords of 1978:

"The Israeli military government and its civilian administration shall be withdrawn as soon as a self-governing authority has been freely elected by the inhabitants of these areas to replace the existing military government."

"As soon as possible... negotiations will be conducted among Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the elected representatives of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza to determine the final status of the West Bank and Gaza and its relationship with its neighbors and to conclude a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan by the end of the transitional period."

"A strong local police force will be constituted by the self-govern-

ing authority. It will be composed of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza."

These provisions, which the Likud hailed ecstatically when its

and, to compound the irony, within the 1967 borders, since none other was under discussion.

"Once there was an elected self-governing authority on the West

Bank, an irreversible political fact would be created on the territory over which its authority was supposed to run. However limited this authority, it would soon turn into the nucleus of something like a Palestinian state, probably under PLO control. It would be so treated by almost all the countries of the world except Israel.

"It was clearly the main objective of the Israeli [Begin] government to avoid it; its proposal was incompatible with its strategy." (Observations, Henry A. Kissinger, Weidenfeld, 1982).

Talking to Kissinger a few weeks ago, I found that he has never abandoned this appraisal. The proposition that Begin meant autonomy for individuals, not for territories, collapses before the Camp David provision on the "determination of the final

status of the West Bank and Gaza and their relationships with their neighbors." If this is not a territorial allusion, the English language has lost its cunning.

I am raising these facts from their untimely oblivion first, in order to explain how insincere the Likud anti-Rabin campaign has always been.

My main conclusion is that since President's Weizman and Mandel won't see Arafat through the complex problems of governance. Meanwhile, he has laid the Madrid formula to rest - permanently.

Dumping the Oslo agreement will come later.

The writer, a former foreign minister and ambassador to the UN and US.

Menachem Begin must be credited as founder of any future Palestinian state

own leaders presented them to the Knesset, are the heart and core of the new Israeli-Palestinian agreement, which party leader Binyamin Netanyahu execrates in vulgar language day and night. The Likud's Camp David text was more indicative of eventual Palestinian statehood than the text of the Oslo accord.

ONE FORMIDABLE interpreter of diplomatic texts believed - and still believes - that Palestinian statehood became virtually inevitable the moment Begin agreed to the Camp David text.

Henry Kissinger wrote 12 years ago:

"Paradoxically, the Begin government, against its preferences and ideology, was really proposing what all other nations were certain to treat as an embryo state

status of the West Bank and Gaza and their relationships with their neighbors." If this is not a territorial allusion, the English language has lost its cunning.

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Ramon: set for success

VOTERS in this week's Histadrut election issued a clear signal of their desire for far-reaching change. The up-setting of the status quo in the labor federation isn't just a question of a minor change of direction. It's a major earthquake, one whose tremors will be felt in other areas as well.

The electorate was clearly demanding institutional and personnel changes, with younger people coming to the fore. And respecting the voters' wishes is what democracy is all about.

The vote for Haim Ramon's list was a message of support for both the man and his approach. Labor will now need to carry out an all-embracing reassessment of its socio-economic course and Histadrut policy.

The vote was also the result of an accumulated protest against the Histadrut establishment. It was an indictment of Labor's broken promises on social and economic issues, on employment and immigrant absorption.

After the initial shock and anger, Labor will probably take stock and consider the appeal by MKs Hagai Merom, Avrum Burg and Yossi Beilin that the party mend its rift with Ramon and his associates.

The election results have strengthened the position of Labor's younger generation and of the other left-wing parties. Naturally, there will be cooperation right away between Ramon's faction and the Labor Party — on the basis of their electoral showings — since what they have in common is greater than what divides them.

Much will change in the Histadrut. When Ramon talks about a serious intention to reform things, he can be believed. He will make every effort to keep the promises which brought him so much electoral support, both inside and outside the Histadrut.

In effect, this is a new era in Israeli politics.

To many, the new primaries procedure and direct election of the premier seemed a purely cosmetic change. They felt that the game would continue to be played by the old rules.

But, plainly, those rules were

DANIEL BLOCH

finished the day Ramon announced he would put forward a new list.

From now on, success in politics will depend on personal charisma and charm, skillful use of the media, and public relations and advertising budgets. Veteran contenders will survive only if they remain credible and keep their promises to voters — or succeed in persuading them that extenuating circumstances prevented eye-of-

His victory marks a new era where what counts is personal charisma and genuine fidelity to the voter

election promises being kept.

ONE MAY approve of the new situation or long nostalgically for the good old days of appointment committees and little black books.

But the coming decade will see us headed in this new direction. Only its resounding failure will generate new changes in the system or turn back the clock.

Haim Ramon's achievement is primarily personal. Had he not taken this gamble, putting himself and his associates Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital at political risk, there would have been no upset. The Likud list headed by Ya'acov Shamai and the Meretz list headed by Haim Oron would have made some gains, and Labor would have slid back somewhat.

The Na'amat (Labor Women) list didn't suffer because its candidate, Ofra Friedman, has gained acceptance for her handling of women's issues. And Meretz's candidate for the post, Anat Maor, isn't particularly well known among Histadrut-Na'amat women members.

Voters showed great maturity in voting separately for the respec-

tive lists; in local labor councils, the trend was to vote on personal popularity. If a Labor Party candidate was well-known and considered more successful than his rivals; if employment in the area had increased; if the candidate was known as a sincere fighter for the rights of workers and the unemployed, he or she was elected.

Just as the results of the 1977 Knesset election were not the outcome of Yitzhak Rabin's premiership but of accumulated frustration and weariness after 30 years of Labor rule, so these Histadrut results aren't the voters' verdict on incumbent secretary-general Haim Haberfeld.

He is just the casualty, paying the price of more than 70 years of tiredness over Histadrut domination, especially during the 46 years of statehood. There is almost no democratic precedent for so long an incumbency by a single party. Haberfeld's predecessor did not introduce the changes needed, and Haberfeld himself wasn't in office long enough to act.

But his mistake was over-competency, and a failure to institute essential changes before the Labor primaries and the general election.

Ramon has announced that he will be Histadrut secretary-general for the next four years at least, and will not contest the next national election.

Although Ramon never had any intention of competing in the 1996 elections, believing that Rabin would still be the candidate of the whole centrist and leftist camp, things could change. Rabin and Shimon Peres are both over 70. If Ramon is a success in his Histadrut career, he will be a serious prime ministerial candidate in the post-Rabin-Peres era.

He won't be the only one. Labor, and even Meretz, has new people rising in its political ranks. Ehud Barak, for example. The current chief of the IDF General Staff is making an effort to get closer to the right, setting himself up as the centrist candidate on the political map, confronting a leftist contender like Haim Ramon or Yossi Sarid.

The writer is editor of Davar.



High on love and hate at Luna Park

SARAH SHAPIRO

AT Luna Park our paths kept crossing. Among the throng of Israelis of all shapes and sizes and ages and colors — their dress either Baer Brak hardy or Tel Aviv discotheque — we weren't aware in those seven hours of any other particular family's presence.

But she and her three sisters were behind us in line for the roller coaster at noon (what are they doing in a place like this?) and in the Pirate Ship they turned up a few seats to our left.

They were coming out as we went into the ladies' room around two (does that nun-like garb mean they're married... so young?) and as we waited our turn for the Flying Chairs, there they were, again, inexplicably, the four of them, circling overhead again and again with each revolution of the machine, their blue-gray chadors (do their husbands know they're here?) lifted delicately up over their ankles by the breeze of their flight.

They can take their safety for granted among us, but — Israelis in an Arab amusement park? Hah! Do they think about that? Do they appreciate our natural sense of humanity, or does it elicit, more likely, nothing but contempt (The *yahudi* doesn't even know how to behave like a normal enemy!)?

The youngest one, around 14, had, incredibly, taken off her shoes (they're allowed to do that in public, when the only uncovered parts of their bodies are the face and hands?), so we on the ground had to gaze up at the undersides of that girl's brown toes and her pale soles each time she sailed by.

One kept her ankles demurely crossed as she drifted by the tree-tops; another kept her eyes shut. (To enjoy it more? Or from fear?)

They twined around in their chairs to call out to one another (They make jokes? About us, maybe. They think they can pull something over on us, they come in here hating us and yet still have a good time) and threw back their heads in laughter, amazingly like us.

So much like us. (But their husbands, their brothers: Hamas. Back home in an orderly Gaza kitchen: their mother praying piously for the holy jihad against the infidels.)

These girls must pray for jihad.

What was it about her, and me? The other three averted

God, we really were upside-down — there she was with her three sisters dashing to get into the first, second, third and fourth cars.

(Are they starved for fun? Do they envy us our Western corruption? Do they appreciate Israeli ingenuity? Do they look down on

Our eyes confessed that neither of us was worthy of the other's enmity

their eyes spontaneously, as did I; our lines of vision involuntarily slid away like oppositional magnets. Our eyes knew instinctively how not to meet, how to pretend to be unseeing, how to ricochet off like stray bullets.

The two of us, though, this girl and I, our glances kept grazing each other as if drawn toward the same warm target. Not even my three daughters are like me in this. They're sabras. They don't fool around making eyes at Arabs.

"Mommy, don't look at her," said the middle one.

Does she identify with me, maybe, with my covered hair? With our long sleeves and long skirts?

By the picnic tables, as my daughters recited the Grace After Meals, the four Arab sisters happened to pass by and she looked over — or was I looking at her? This is getting embarrassing. What is it lurking in the secret crevices of our two hearts that each recognizes in the other? Our eyes ask, Who are you?

ON The scariest ride of all, SuperTrain — the one in which you realize all at once that you're frightened of dying, the one that, much later on when twilight's failing, you catch sight of from across the park, its pink and green lights twinkling through the blue dusk and think, Dear

that was infinitely blue, we Israelis indulged in a celebration of life itself.

It was fun to see the dolphins play! Fun to be swung around! To be terrified, to think you might crash, to fly off the ground, to let go of the world!

Where are those Arab girls in their straight gray chadors, faces made rectangular by the borders of their hoods like medieval helmets?

The hours floated by, the twilight deepened.

Blue darkness had descended and the wind was rising. The colored lights of Luna Park twinkled everywhere. There was no need for stars. Before leaving for Jerusalem, my daughters wanted one more ride. No! I refused to go back on SuperTrain, the answer is no. No!

At last, we settled on the House of Mirrors, so there we were, a few minutes later, inside the glass and mirror hallways, raucously seeking our way out of the maze of our own reflections.

My daughters flitted here and there, groping along, feeling their way. They're close, they're far, there am I, we can't be sure who's where.

I was just trying to determine if it was them I'd just seen or their images, when I turned a corner (expecting to find myself) and instead, abruptly... looked speechlessly into her brown eyes. For an instant, our eyes confessed that neither was worthy of the other's absolute hatred.

We're not supposed to praise the beauty of our enemies. Yet her face... her face is...

She hates me. I hate her. We smile.

The writer is a Jerusalem-based free-lancer.

In defense of Lawrence

A recent article by Netty Gross ("An embarrassment of riches," *The Jerusalem Post*, April 29) brought to mind a conversation we had with our aliyah emissary, prior to coming here from Lawrence, New York.

"Why?" he asked us, point blank. "Why would you want to leave Lawrence? Where will you find something better?"

After all: • What other community — consisting of fewer Jewish families than the Rehavia/Talbiyah area — can boast of four yeshiva day schools within walking distance? • Can you name another community where Jewish students can choose from five yeshiva high schools within a three-kilometer radius?

• Where else can you find a train that has a coach given over to a "daf yomi" Talmud lesson every morning for the dozens of Lawrence businessmen working in New York City?

• Is there a community that tops the Lawrence "givers" list? Hardly. This is one of the most charitable communities in the world.

When the recession hit Lawrence and families who had millions became indigent overnight, synagogues mobilized the community to donate tens of thousands to

YAACOV PETERSEIL

help their neighbors. • Are women downtrodden, abused, slaves to the whims of their husbands, as the article seems to indicate? Hardly.

Many of the quality clothing

A place where fine, generous folk live a life imbued with spirituality

stores in the Lawrence-Cedarhurst shopping area are owned by Jewish women. These are women who are capable of both working and raising a family; bright women who enjoy the finer things in life, and can afford them with their own earnings.

What's more, while the trend has always been toward personal fitness — including jogging and working out — Lawrence women spend above average time running to daily Torah classes given by both men and women in the Lawrence community.

• Speaking of trends, Lawrence's

yeshiva high-school graduates almost uniformly spend from one to two years studying Torah in Israel. The boys then return to Lawrence, attending yeshiva during the day and college at night.

• What is the hottest profession that draws these next-generation Lawrence "fruppies"? Jewish education! The desire to teach Jewish tradition has become one of the main professional goals of many young Lawrenceans.

• Synagogues are full each Shabbat. The learning renaissance has reached all ages in the community. Over 100 congregants showed up at a Shabbat class I recently attended in one Lawrence synagogue. I have sat in on classes on the weekly Torah portion with close to 200 people — mostly women — in attendance.

So why did we leave Lawrence? Not for a better education for our children, nor for the quality of life in Israel. We left because we believe in the Land of Israel, and because no matter how good it is in America, it is still exile — wandering among the nations.

But would we mind raising Israel's standard of living to match Lawrence's?

Who wouldn't?

The writer is a Jerusalem-based publisher of children's books.

POSTSCRIPTS

WACKO NAMES in the news, compiled by Washington columnist Chuck Shepherd:

A judge told an army sergeant named Jesus Christ Hallelujah that he would have to wait 30 days to undo the name change that he had just been granted and about which he was having second thoughts. For some reason he wanted to be Tyrone Victor

Wright again.

An inter-family conflict kept Imelda Marcos from the recent wedding of her son, Bong Bong.

A drug bust in New Haven, Conn., put 25-year-old Victorious Sweat in jail.

The chief Republican fundraiser in a squabble in Oklahoma about whether a state museum will be

built in Tulsa or Norman is named E.Z. Million.

Among the discoveries by someone computerizing the state of Virginia's birth and death certificates were the following names given by parents to their children: Salts, Alien, Navel, New Fang, Nicey Horsie, Molegold, Comfort Care, Turnipseed and Cigarette.

Sinwa

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Aryeh Shalev

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Learning from an Asian tiger

COMMENT
 NEIL COHEN

It would be a mistake to attribute too much importance to this week's visit by Lee Kuan Yew, the architect of Singapore's economic miracle, and its former prime minister.

Members of the Singaporean delegation, the largest from there ever to visit this country, expressed surprise at what they perceived as disappointment on the part of some of their hosts that the delegation had not included more business people.

There was, it appeared, an expectation that the visit heralded closer economic ties between the two nations, and greater interest in Israel on the part of Singaporean businessmen. The Singaporeans were quite frank, however, saying that they are concentrating the bulk of their energies on developing the huge markets that are opening up in their own backyard - China, Vietnam, Myanmar and India. A little, culturally and geographically distant place like Israel is low on their list of priorities.

The Singaporeans were also a little baffled by the degree of interest in them. The best explanation I could come up with for one member of the delegation was that they envy their success and hope that closer ties with them will lead some of the magic to rub off on us.

It seems more likely, however, that imitation will make the magic work better than association, although on some levels this may not sit well with our societal norms. Singapore's essentially one party system enables government to plan for the long term unconcerned with popularity swings. It has also enabled the older generation of leaders, led by Lee Kuan Yew himself, to groom younger successors and gracefully hand over power to them.

These parts of the miracle formula may not be replicable in Israel. However, others clearly are, if

the will is there.

According to an exhaustive World Bank report published late last year, the Asian Tigers (South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand) thrived on low(ish) inflation, sound fiscal policies, high levels of domestic saving and heavy investment in education.

An inflation rate of 8% provided an excellent climate for long-term investment. And devoting a high share (80% in Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand in the mid-1980s) of education spending to primary and high school education, rather than universities, meant the development of a suitably skilled work force.

The study found that export promotion (subsidies, favored access to foreign borrowing and foreign exchange) and directed credit policies were successful. It must be noted that import barriers were used to protect domestic industries in their early stages of development.

The World Bank is careful to note an important point. The success of certain types of government intervention depended vitally on a unique institutional factor - the competence and relative lack of corruption among civil servants.

Generous conditions competitive with the private sector have enabled Singapore (as well as South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan) to build professional and honest bureaucracies, at least by Asian standards.

Michael Fay represents what many view as the unpleasant side of Asian discipline. But the honest, skilled bureaucracy it has also helped foster has paid enormous economic dividends.

Next week's State Comptroller's Report will doubtless highlight how far our bureaucrats still have to go.

Jobless rate down, GDP up in 1st q'tr

JOSE ROSENFELD

UNEMPLOYMENT continued to fall in the first quarter and is expected to stand between 9 percent and 8.5%, as vigorous economic activity pushed the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) up 7.8%. Central Bureau of Statistics chief economist Ezra Hadar announced yesterday.

The GDP measures the total value of all goods produced and services provided by the economy.

During the first quarter, the economy regained steam, reaching the high growth rates achieved in the three years prior to 1993, when the GDP rose between 6% and 7%. By contrast, last year's GDP increased a more moderate 3.4%, according to the bureau's slight downward adjustment of last year's GDP growth figure, which was originally estimated at 3.5%.

This slowdown in economic activity was attributed to the sharp drop in public housing construction that began in the second half of 1992 and the closure of the territories in the second quarter of last year. During

the second half of 1992, the GDP fell 2%, coinciding with the drop in public construction, followed by a mild 2% rise in the first half of 1993. However, in the second half of the year, economic activity jumped 13%, as exports lead the economy forward.

During the first quarter, consumption rose 12.1%, investments jumped 16.5%, exports increased 8.2%, and imports grew by 8.7%, the bureau reported.

Hadar refused to estimate the economy's growth rate for the remainder of the year. However, he said he sees signs of a slowdown in the construction industry this quarter as a result of the territories closure.

The business product increased 3.5% last year, at nearly the same pace as the GDP. In the preceding three years, the business product grew between 7% and 8% a year. The industrial product grew 7%, while the agricultural product only increased 0.5%.

The tax burden rose to 40% of GDP from

39.6% in 1992, as Treasury tax-cuts failed to stem the increased flow of tax revenues into government coffers, which derived from the economic expansion.

The buying power of wage-earners eroded last year by 0.5%, as private sector workers' purchasing power fell by 1.7%, while the public sector's buying power rose 2.4%.

Work productivity fell a slight 0.5% by 0.6% in the business sector as the growth in the number of workers was nearly matched by the GDP increase. By contrast, industrial productivity rose 2.6%.

According to Hadar, the decrease in productivity is explained by the turbulence the closure created in the housing industry and the required adjustments in various sectors of the economy.

Labor costs per hour rose between 2% and 3%, after dropping steadily in the preceding five years.

Private consumption per capita grew 5% to NIS 22,130. Durable household goods and car purchases dropped 2%, after cumulatively rising by 55% in the preceding three years. Private consumption of non-durable goods expanded a brisker 6% per capita. Foreign travel, which jumped 25% last year, pushed overall consumption figures up.

Fixed capital investment remained flat after rising 6% in 1992, due to the sharp cutback in construction. Investment in housing fell 27.6%, after shrinking 1% in 1992 and jumping by 74% in 1991.

Exports of goods and services rose 10.6% after growing 14% in 1992. Industrial exports, excluding diamonds, grew 11% compared to 10% in 1992. Revenues from tourism grew by 16%, after jumping 48% in 1992.

Imports increased faster than exports at 14.5% last year. In the past five years, imports have grown 58.4% compared to 27.4% for exports.

New Bezek license delayed for one month

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK's new general license will not take effect for at least another month, and in the meantime, the public telecommunications company has agreed not to institute new services.

This was the result of the discussion by the High Court of Justice yesterday of a suit by Bezek against implementation of new general license, as signed earlier this year by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni.

The new license limits Bezek to enjoying a monopoly only in those services related to infrastructure.

In all other services, the license stipulated that Bezek would face competition from private entrepreneurs.

But Bezek officials charged that this was unfair, and would harm the company's economic standing. The company, represented by Amnon Goldenberg, asked that it be allowed to offer freely all telecommunications services without having to obtain approval in advance from the ministry.

The court decided not to hear oral arguments on the case but to examine them in writing. The court said it would try to hand down its ruling before June 11, although it may present its reasons for the judgment after that date.

Scitex profits drop 49% in first quarter

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

SCITEX yesterday reported a drop in first quarter net profits of \$15.3 million, down 49 percent from \$30.2m. last year. The figure includes a \$2m. capital gain resulting from the sale of the company's remaining one-third share in Silver Arrow, a limited partnership which develops unmanned aircraft.

First quarter earnings per share fell to \$0.36 from \$0.71 in 1993. The board declared an interim cash dividend of \$0.13 per share for the first quarter.

Explaining the results, CFO Giora Bitan said: "You have to look at the change in the financial model which Scitex has undergone over the past 12 months." He added changes in the general market and Scitex's product line made quarterly comparisons difficult.

"We have experienced a 5% decline in gross profit margin, from 58.1% in 1993 to 53.1% this year on revenues of \$164m. - that's a big part of the explanation."

Scitex shares on Wall St. were selling at 17 1/2 in mid-day trade yesterday, up from 15 1/4 at the opening.

Makhteshim yesterday announced a 13.8% rise in first quarter net profits to NIS 29.3m, compared with NIS 25.7m. last year.

First quarter revenues rose 7% to NIS 353.2m. from NIS 327.2m. last year. The gross profit margin was steady at 32%.

Teledata Communications yesterday announced a 5% rise in first quarter net profits to \$2.07m., compared with \$1.9m. last year. Revenues were up 28% at \$9.4m. over the \$7.3m. reported the previous year, with a lowered gross profit margin of 53% compared with 61% for 1993.

1994 earnings per share were up slightly at \$0.20, compared with \$0.19 in 1993, based on an weighted average number of shares of 10,375,000.

Teledata develops, manufactures, and markets advanced equipment geared to telecommunications companies.

Evergreen Canada-Israel Investments profits rose more than 600% for the first quarter.

The investment company's net profits reached \$34.85m., compared with \$369,000 in 1993. Consolidated first quarter income reached \$310.5m., compared with \$360,000 in 1993.

Income from administration and consultation came to \$33.2m., a 54% rise over the \$21,585,000 reported in 1993.

The end of the first quarter saw the company's entrance into the venture capital sector with the establishment of a \$12m. early stage investment fund for fledgling companies. In addition, over the first quarter Evergreen made a investment of \$38m. out of a promised \$12m. in Zina, which holds 12% of Yediot Aharonot.

Elco wins Electric Corp. transformer tender

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ELCO was awarded an Israel Electric Corp. international tender to supply three large transformers valued at about \$3 million, the company's senior directors tender committee decided yesterday.

The committee, headed by Shlomo Nass, said five companies participated in the tender, including

German, Swiss, and French firms.

The committee decided to appoint an external accountant to insure locally produced components make up at least 35 percent of the transformers.

Elco was awarded the contract on condition that the transformers energy loss will not rise above Elco's declared rate. According to the contract, Elco will pay a penalty if they deviate from this rate.

The Electric Corp. also report-

ed that Sonol was awarded half of its NIS 3.5m. international tender to supply oil and lubrication products. The tender committee awarded Delek 40% of the tender and Paz the remaining 10%.

Six companies from Israel and abroad participated in the tender. The two year contract has an option for an additional year.

Nass said the board of directors decision to offer tenders has saved money. In many of its tenders, the company has obtained prices 50% lower than it paid in the past.

Pioneer International Ltd

South African Economic Statistics

	Prices 11.5.94	Prices 4.5.94	% Change
Exchange rates:			
(buy) Financial rand	3.605	3.545	-1.69%
(buy) Rand	4.740	4.600	-3.04%
Interest rates:			
(Ry)* Money market (RAs)	10.80%	10.55%	2.37%
Escom 1994	10.40%	10.40%	0.00%
Escom 2008	12.29%	12.29%	0.00%
Escom 2020	12.82%	12.82%	0.00%
RSA 150	12.82%	12.82%	0.00%
UAL Max Income	14.47%	14.47%	0.00%
Prices: UTLs:			
(buy) OM Investors	39.8627	38.7015	3.00%
Guardbank	35.5559	35.0371	1.48%
UAL Gilt	12.5443	12.5913	-0.37%
Max Income	10.6647	10.6465	0.17%
De Beers	102.25	107.50	-4.88%
De Beers	385.00	402.00	-4.23%
Anglo American	227.00	223.00	1.79%
Barlows	40.25	35.00	15.00%
SA Brews	101.25	97.00	4.38%
Sasol	24.75	25.00	-1.00%
Tiger Oats	54.00	56.00	-3.57%
Iscor	3.39	3.35	1.19%
JSE Actuaries Overall	5.441	5.291	2.82%

*RY - running yield.

COMMENTS: President Nelson Mandela's choice of cabinet ministers was warmly received by international merchant bankers, financiers and stockbrokers, who said it sent an encouraging signal to foreign investors.

Morgan Grenfell said the well-balanced cabinet represented "a very mature and sensitive understanding of the concerns of the foreign lending and investment community."

S.G. Warburg Intl. said that the international community could not have asked for anything better than the "golden triangle" of Chris Stals as Reserve Bank Governor, Derek Key, as Finance Minister, and Trevor Manuel as Trade and Industry Minister.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cellcom to invest \$300m. Cellcom will invest about \$300 million over the next three years in infrastructure and marketing networks for the second cellular phone service, the consortium announced yesterday.

Cellcom is jointly owned by Bell-South in the US, the Safra Brothers and Discount Investments. The company will begin offering cellular phone services in the central region by the end of the year and cover the entire country in 15 months.

Interest rates up: Interest rates rose by half a percentage point to 11 percent in the Bank of Israel's daily tender to the commercial banks yesterday, as the central bank cut five credit quotas of NIS 190 million each at interest levels of 9.8 percent to 10.2%, as announced on Monday. Similarly, interest rates increased to 11% from 10.5% last week, in the central bank's weekly tender to the banks.

In the currency market, there was excess supply of \$30.08m. The shekel was up 0.4% against the dollar to NIS 3.009. Against the currency basket, the shekel gained 0.2% to NIS 3.2627. The Bank of Israel purchased \$10.18m. of the supply.

'More compensation for company heads': Finance Minister Avraham Shohat requested the chairman of the Knesset finance committee to approve new regulations for government firms allowing the government to compensate company directors for attending board meetings. The regulations limit payment to public representatives. Government employees or employees whose salary is paid by the government will not be entitled to compensation.

Laser Industries, MyriadLase form alliance: A strategic alliance has been reached between Laser Industries and Texas-based MyriadLase, a manufacturer of laser delivery systems and accessories. The agreement will expand the Israeli company's distribution rights to a laser fiber used in surgical procedures, which is manufactured by MyriadLase.

New Elbit appointments: Elbit CEO Uzia Galil announced that Yigal Baruchi has been named chief operating officer, to serve directly below him and President Emmanuel Gil. Baruchi's former position of managing director of Elbit Military Systems will be filled by Joseph Ackerman, former CEO of EFW Inc., a US-based Elbit subsidiary.

WORLD BRIEFS

April wholesale prices down 0.1%: Prices at the wholesale level declined unexpectedly in April, the US Labor Department said yesterday, suggesting that inflation remained tamed despite fears that price pressures may be building.

The department said its Producer Price Index fell by 0.1 percent following an increase of 0.2% in March. Without the impact of the volatile food and energy sector, prices still showed an increase of only 0.1%.

US retail sales fall sharply: Sales at retail stores dropped sharply in April from March's brisk pace, the US Commerce Department said yesterday, as demand softened for nearly all types of goods. Total retail sales fell an unexpectedly steep 0.8% to a seasonally adjusted \$183.6 billion after a strongly revised 1.7% jump in March.

British airlines prepare to defy French air ban: Two British airlines, backed by a European Commission ruling, plan to fly into Paris's Orly airport on Monday in defiance of a French government ban.

In April, the European Commission ordered France to open up Orly, the capital's busiest domestic airport, to European rivals of state carrier Air France.

Britain's GrandMet profits up, shares tumble: British food and drinks giant Grand Metropolitan Plc posted a 9% rise in half-year pre-tax profits yesterday, but a disappointing dividend and patchy performance by its main operations sent shares tumbling.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (13.5.94)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
Currency (deposit for):			
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.00%	4.37%	5.00%
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.25%	3.87%	4.37%
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.87%	3.87%	4.00%
Yen (¥10 million yen)	0.62%	0.75%	0.87%

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (12.5.94)	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Buy	Buy
Currency basket	3.2370	3.2363	3.2367
U.S. dollar	2.9881	3.0282	2.97
German mark	1.7911	1.8183	1.78
French franc	4.4738	4.5557	4.38
Japanese yen (100)	0.3222	0.3236	0.32
Dutch florin	2.8027	2.8031	2.81
Swiss franc	1.9267	1.9281	1.93
Scandinavian krona	2.0940	2.1238	2.05
Swedish krona	0.3882	0.3917	0.38
Norwegian krona	0.4130	0.4188	0.41
Denish krona	0.4578	0.4641	0.45
Finland mark	0.3518	0.3594	0.34
Canadian dollar	2.1596	2.1801	2.13
Australian dollar	2.1528	2.1832	2.10
S. African rand	0.8208	0.8218	0.82
Belgian franc (10)	0.8702	0.8825	0.85
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5425	2.5814	2.50
Italian lire (1000)	1.8070	1.8553	1.83
Jordanian dinar	4.383	4.4778	4.27
Spanish peseta (100)	2.1714	2.2020	2.11

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Spurs charged over irregular payments

LONDON (Reuters) - Tottenham Hotspur's future in the Premier League was plunged into doubt yesterday when the Football Association charged the club with misconduct over irregular payments to players.

Tottenham is alleged to have been involved in financial irregularities breaching Football League regulations.

In 1990 Swindon Town, newly promoted to the first division, was relegated to the third after being found guilty of similar charges. On appeal they were finally placed in division two.

The F.A. could take similar action, although a heavy fine is more likely as the alleged offenses occurred when Tottenham was a Football League club. The F.A. Premier League was formed when the top 22 clubs broke away from the Football League in 1992.

A three-man Premier League inquiry team spent more than six months investigating allegations into Tottenham making interest free loans of over £400,000 to play-

ers between 1985 and 1989 that were supposedly never repaid.

The team handed its report over to the F.A. almost two weeks ago.

The loans were exposed by an independent television documentary program which found that they were not illegal because they were declared for tax. But they were in breach of Football League rules.

Tottenham has 14 days to answer the allegations.

Paul Gascoigne, who has since been transferred to Italian club Lazio, was alleged to be one of the recipients of loans in amounts ranging from £25,000 pounds to £70,000.

An F.A. statement said: "The Football Association has today written to Tottenham Hotspur FC charging the club with misconduct pursuant to its rules for breaches of regulations of the Football League. The charges relate to matters which appear to have occurred while Tottenham Hotspur FC was a member of the Football League and subject to its regulations."

Jimmy Johnson in big demand

DALLAS (AP) - How much is Jimmy Johnson in demand? The ex-coach of the Dallas Cowboys says he has received offers to coach almost one-third of the teams in the NFL.

"I had two offers for this year and I've had six offers for next year," he said. "I definitely want to coach next year, but I intend to honor my broadcast commitments for this season."

He will appear on HBO and the Fox network as an NFL commentator.

Johnson, who left the Cowboys in March after a well-publicized disagreement with owner Jerry Jones, spoke at the opening of a sandwich shop in which he is part-owner.

Numerous club officials, players and coaches showed up for the bash, including quarterback Troy Aikman and defensive tackle Russell Maryland. Jones didn't attend.

Johnson said he plans to travel to Dallas during the season to do a Monday radio and television program from the city where he won two Super Bowl championships.

"I guess you're going to be seeing a lot of me this fall," he said. Johnson said he believed his replacement, Barry Switzer, will do fine in his first year of NFL coaching.

"He'll be all right as long as he doesn't make any suggestions," he said. "This is a pretty good football machine here, and if he just lets the machine run he'll be all right. This team is still very capable of winning big football games."

Johnson said he knows the exact moment he will miss being the Cowboys' coach.

"It's going to come when the Cowboys win a real big game," he said. "I'll miss being there. Because when you win big games I know how much work you've had to put into it. I'll miss being there when that happens - and it will happen."

Johnson declined to grade the Cowboys on their recent draft. "I watched the first round on television and then I had to



A WANTED MAN - Jimmy Johnson has opted for broadcasting instead of coaching. (AP)

leave," he said. He's been busy doing television ads, including one for a motel in which he pops out of a suitcase and asks fans to guess his next coaching destination. The prize is a trip to the Super Bowl and he ends by

saying, "I bet you can't get there without me." "There are a lot of things I'm getting to do now that I didn't get to do while I was coaching," he said. Johnson was told that some peo-

ple believe he could never have fun outside coaching. "I think I proved them wrong," he said. "I'm having a heck of a time and I'm going to Cancun fishing with (former Dallas club president) Tex Schramm."

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Elitzur Holon gets basketball honors

JOEL GORDIN

ELITZUR Holon won the women's national league basketball championship for the 18th year in succession last night, beating ASA Ramat Hasharon 84-83 after overtime in a cliff-hanging finale to the season.

The game, at Holon, was the fifth of the best of five series. Each club won two previous games.

The nail-biting battle was in sharp contrast to the finals of the men's league where Maccabi Tel Aviv cake-walked 3-0 over Hapoel Tel Aviv. This final was a see-saw struggle throughout. With 27 seconds to go in overtime, and the score still tied (81-81), Ramat Hasharon's Linda Burgess was successful with two free throws (83-81). In the subsequent Holon offensive Helena Spiridonova hit her first three-point shot of the match (84-83) and Ramat Hasharon failed to exploit the remaining six seconds.

For Holon, veteran captain Anat Dreiger scored 21. Spiridonova 19 (14 rebounds), and Limor Mizrahi 18. For Ramat Hasharon, Linda Burgess made 25 points, Aluma Goren 23 and Orly Kestlin 17.

Up until the 1991/2 season Elitzur Holon, nicknamed the "Maccabi Tel Aviv of women's basketball," had ruled the roost unchallenged. However, in that year, Holon captain Dreiger, the "queen" of Israeli basketball, went to France to play for the Racing club of Paris. Her place was taken by Goren who gained valuable leadership experience.

When Dreiger returned, Goren moved to Ramat Hasharon, taking with her national star Kestlin from Maccabi Tel Aviv. The club also benefited from the new law allowing foreign players, signing two outstanding Americans, Burgess and Christine Cummings.

Ramat Hasharon notched up some excellent performances in the European Ronchetti Cup contest, becoming the first Israeli women's club to beat a Spanish team.

New Zealand cricketers rescued

LONDON (Reuters) - Stephen Fleming came to New Zealand's rescue with an unbeaten 67 after another inept batting display on the opening day of the visitors' three-day match against Middlesex at Lord's yesterday.

The tall 21-year-old, who made 92 on his Test debut against India two months ago, helped New Zealand recover to be 155 for six at the end of a rain-shortened day's play after winning the toss and deciding to bat.

Widow in Distress

A pious widow who has suffered much anguish and misery since the death of her husband has nevertheless managed to arrange a marriage for her daughter. The wedding will take place soon, with the help of G-d, but the widow cannot prepare a dowry for her daughter since she is heavily in debt from the marriages of her other children. Only a large sum can save her from this unfortunate situation.

We appeal to our merciful brethren to come to the aid of this pious and virtuous widow and to contribute generously, even to double their donations, to save the widow and her orphans from their terrible plight. Those who respond to this appeal will be blessed twofold by the source of all blessings by the Father of orphans and widows.

It is the duty of all of us to extend a helping hand to this widow - and quickly - to save her from shame, as the date of the wedding is fast approaching.

Shlomo Zalman Auerbach • Nissim Karelitz • Shmuel Auerbach
Moshe Halberstam • Meir Branderfer
All those donating will be the recipients of protection and blessings.

Moshe Ari Freund
Donations can be sent to the rabbis listed below (who support this appeal).

Mark donations for: the widow in distress.
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Yosef Moshe Militzki, 21 Zephaniah, Jerusalem, 820720
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Moshe Mordechai Schulsinger, 18 Hashala, Bnei Brak, 03-782653
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Donations may also be paid into Postal Bank Acct. No 7-30855-6 (in the name of Harav Cohen).

The Commercial Section of the Canadian Embassy wishes to recruit a SECRETARY

Candidates must be fluent in English, French and Hebrew, and a knowledge of Arabic would be considered a strong asset. A minimum of three years of secretarial experience is required, as is a solid knowledge of computer applications, especially word processing. Applications, giving work history, educational background, and personal and professional references, in English and/or French, should be mailed to the Trade Commissioner, Canadian Embassy, 220 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, or faxed to 03-527-2333, before 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 23, 1994.

Jerusalem Post Computer Supplement

June 3, 1994

For advertising information, call:

Moshe Forman

Tel. 03-6390333 - Fax. 03-6390277

Bloom only local in quarter-finals

HEATHER CHAIT

GILAD Bloom was born to fight. In a grueling second round match at the Eisenberg Jerusalem Open tournament yesterday, Bloom faced two match points in the second set against Germany's Patrick Baur before turning the tables to win 5-7, 7-6 (8/6), 7-5.

Bloom is the only local player to reach today's quarter-final round (3:30 pm) where he will meet Arne Thoms, also of Germany.

Eyal Erlich went down valiantly against Joao Cunha-Silver of Portugal, Eyal Ran's victor on Tuesday, in another marathon three-setter, decided by a tiebreak in the final set. The Portuguese visitor won 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

Cunha-Silver's experience and confidence were ultimately too much for Erlich who played an excellent serve and volley game.

Struggling against a blustery Jerusalem wind, Bloom surged to a 5-2 lead in the first set, showing daring, aggressive play concentrated mostly at the net.

Suddenly Baur, ranked 233 in the world against Bloom's 183, pounced back, equalizing at 5-5 and nabbing the set 7-5.

The second set was a true nailbiter.

With Baur leading 3-0 and looking cool and in control, Bloom made his comeback. Spurred by the crowd and thriving on the face of adversity, Bloom played the pressure, serving aces and thrilling the crowd with his on-court ease and immaculate groundstrokes.

After leveling at 6-6, with Baur poised at 6-4 in the tiebreak, Bloom, moving like a cat and audibly exhorting himself, broke back for the set.

The final set was as balanced as the second with the lead see-sawing between the players. Eventually, after 2 1/2 hours, Bloom claimed the victory at 7-5.

Second seed Kevin Ullyett of South Africa was the unexpected victim to Austria's Peter Tramacchi, losing 6-3, 6-4.

Other quarter-final games today at 2 pm are: Tramacchi vs. Filip DeWulf (Belgium), Cunha-Silver vs. Davide Sanguinetti (Italy) and Michael Joyce (USA) vs. Dick Norman (Belgium).

Tomorrow's semifinals and the final on Sunday will both begin at 11 am at the ITC courts in Katamon. Entrance is free.

TODAY ON CABLE TV

■ CHANNEL 5
10:00 Table Tennis 11:00 Brazilian league soccer 12:00 English league soccer 13:00 One on one with Don Nelson 13:30 Spanish league soccer 15:00 WWF 16:00 Baseball 17:00 Montale 17:30 European soccer magazine 18:30 Volleyball 19:30 NHL 20:15 NBA playoff 21:45 (to be announced) 22:00 European soccer magazine

■ EUROSPORT
9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Show Jumping 11:00 Sailing 12:00 Mountain bike 12:30 ATP tennis 13:00 The road to the World Cup 14:00 Motoring magazine 15:00 Synchronized swimming 16:00 Badminton 17:00 Triathlon 18:00 NHL 19:00 Motocycling magazine 20:30 International motoring magazine 21:30 Eurosport news 21:00 Handball 22:00 Billiards 23:00 International boxing 00:00 Cycling 1:00 Sailing magazine 2:00 Leisure sports 2:30 Eurosport news

■ PRIME SPORTS
6:00 NBA playoff 8:00 Show jumping 11:30 WWF 12:30 Asian soccer show 13:30 Motor racing 14:00 International sport magazine 15:00 NBA behind the scenes 15:00 International motoring magazine 16:00 Grand Prix 17:00 Live soccer show 17:30 Boxing 18:30 WWF 20:30 Asian soccer show 21:30 Motor racing 22:00 International sport magazine 22:30 NBA behind the scenes 23:00 International motoring magazine 00:00 Australian league rugby 1:00 Boxing

SATURDAY MAY 14

■ CHANNEL 5
9:30 Spanish league soccer 11:00 Montale 11:30 European soccer magazine 12:30 English league soccer 13:30 Volleyball 14:30 Special US high school basketball all-stars 16:00 NBA playoff 17:30 Live English cup soccer final: Man Utd v Chelsea 21:00 Montale 21:30 Baseball 22:30 Live NBA playoff

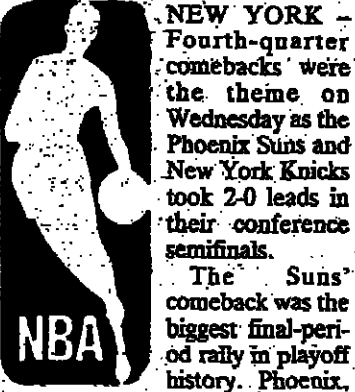
■ EUROSPORT
9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Sailing 11:00 Synchronized swimming 12:00 Cycling 13:00 Boxing 14:00 Live Formula 1 15:00 Grand Prix 16:00 Karting 16:00 Handball 17:00 Dance 18:00 Live synchronized swimming 19:00 Live artistic gymnastics 22:00 Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix 23:00 Boxing 00:00 Nunchaku 1:00 Cycling 1:30 Handball

■ PRIME SPORTS
6:00 International sports magazine 6:30 NBA behind the scenes 7:00 International motoring magazine 8:00 Rugby 8:00 Boxing 11:00 Formula 1 from inside 12:00 ATP tennis 13:30 Motor racing 14:00 European soccer show 15:00 WWF 16:00 History of the Indy 500 17:00 Motocycling 18:00 Squash 19:00 Formula 1 from inside 20:00 ATP tennis 21:30 Live golf from Texas 22:30 Motor racing 00:00 History of the Indy 500 1:00 Motocycling

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Suns, Knicks keep winning ways



NEW YORK — Fourth-quarter comebacks were the theme on Wednesday as the Phoenix Suns and New York Knicks took 2-0 leads in their conference semifinals.

The Suns' comeback was the biggest final-period rally in playoff history. Phoenix, which trailed by 18 after three quarters and 20 early in the fourth, rallied for a 124-117 overtime victory over Houston.

In New York, John Starks scored eight consecutive points during an 11-0 fourth-quarter rally that carried New York to a 96-91 victory over Chicago.

Charles Barkley scored 34 points, Kevin Johnson had six of his 27 in overtime and Dan Majerle added 22 as Phoenix won its

Playoffs on TV

Sports Channel 5 — Tonight: Chicago-New York, 20.15 (unconfirmed). Saturday: Indiana-Atlanta, 23.30.

second straight at The Summit in Houston. Only one team — the 1969 Los Angeles Lakers — has rallied to win a seven-game series after losing the first two games at home.

Games 3 and 4 are today and Sunday in Phoenix, where the Suns have won their last 13 games.

Houston was leading 104-84 with 10 minutes left, but the Rockets scored only one more field goal in the quarter — a 3-pointer by Sam Cassell with 2:35 to go. The Suns closed the quarter with a 24-4 run.

In overtime, Phoenix scored 12 of the first 15 points and the sell-out crowd at The Summit began to file out more than a minute left. But Robert Horry and Scott Brooks hit consecutive 3-pointers to make it 120-117 with 36 seconds left. Johnson and Danny Ainge then hit two free throws each to hold off Houston's comeback attempt.

Hakeem Olajuwon led the Rockets with 34 points and 17 rebounds.

Houston scored only eight points in the fourth quarter, equalling the playoff record-low set by the New Jersey Nets against Cleveland last year.

Knicks 96, Bulls 91

In New York, John Starks was the offensive spark in the fourth quarter and Anthony Mason led the Knicks' suffocating defense down the stretch.

Patrick Ewing scored 10 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, when New York outscored Chicago 27-19.

Starks, who finished with 13 points, said that when he had entered the game about 20 seconds into the fourth



COMING THROUGH — New York center Patrick Ewing gets through Chicago players Bill Cartwright (1) and Scottie Pippen to slam home a dunk. (Reuters)

quarter, his aim was to "come in and give the team a spark." Within about three minutes the fiery guard had made back-to-back three-pointers to make it 74-72 and 77-72 — the Knicks' first lead, since 10-9 in the opening quarter. Then he scored on a breakaway dunk to make it 79-72.

"Starks' three-pointers were the turning point in the game," said Chicago coach Phil Jackson.

Chicago star Scottie Pippen was hampered by foul trouble and fouled out with a little over 2½ minutes to go in the game.

Riley also credited the defensive pressure and presence of Mason. "Without Mase tonight we don't win," Riley said. "What I like about him right now, he's so damn assertive."

Mason finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds for New York. His layup off a steal gave the Knicks their largest lead at 92-83 with 2:19 to play.

It was the second time in as many games that the Bulls grabbed the lead in the first quarter and held it until the final period, when they wilted under New York's pressure.

Horace Grant and B.J. Armstrong led the Bulls with 23 points apiece.

Pippen scored 22 points in 33 minutes of play.

The Knicks have never beaten the Bulls in five previous playoff series and were eliminated from the playoffs by Chicago in each of the last three seasons.

Game Three is tonight at Chicago. (AP, Reuters)

NBA Playoff Glance

Semifinals (Best of 7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Indiana leads Atlanta 1-0
Wednesday's result:
New York 96, Chicago 91
Phoenix leads series 2-0

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Utah leads Denver 1-0
Wednesday's result:
Phoenix 124, Houston 117 (OT)
Phoenix leads series 2-0

Last night's scheduled games:
Indiana at Atlanta
Denver at Utah
Tonight's games:
New York at Chicago
Houston at Phoenix

Tonorrow's games:
Atlanta at Indiana
Utah at Denver

Man Utd chasing double

INSIDE ENGLISH SOCCER

LEN BREWER

WITH apologies to Chelsea supporters, Manchester United is set to win the FA Cup in tomorrow's final at Wembley, making it only the sixth team in the history of English soccer to complete the league championship and cup double.

Sure favorites have come unstuck before, but even allowing for the fact that half of United's four league defeats this season were inflicted by the Stamford Bridge team, Alex Ferguson's men have the bit between their teeth.

Confidence after winning their second successive title is sky high and all connected with the Old Trafford club are desperate for the double as a fitting memorial to the late Sir Matt Busby.

There was good news for the champions on Wednesday when goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel was passed fit for tomorrow's big game. The Danish international missed United's last two league games with an ankle injury.

United, you may recall, came oh so close to missing out on the final. Only a last-second equalizer from Mark Hughes in their semifinal with Oldham kept them on the glory trail.

Hughes, as a youngster in his

native Wales who supported Chelsea, will be keen to add to his impressive goal-scoring record at Wembley. With countryman Ryan Giggs, the irrepressible Frenchman Eric Cantona and Russian winger Andrei Kanchelskis (who has just signed a new five-year contract) back to their brilliant best, Chelsea's defense could be in for a very difficult weekend.

However, the Londoners will nevertheless be relishing the task ahead, and no one more so than fullback Steve Clark whose reward for an outstanding season was his recall this week to Scotland's squad after a six-year absence.

Up front, Chelsea will be looking for something special from Mark Stein. The striker missed 14 matches with damaged ankle ligaments, but gave himself and his teammates a shot in the arm with two goals in the 3-2 win over Sheffield United. The biggest boost for Chelsea will be a fully fit Glen Hoddie. The influence on the field of the club's player/manager will be invaluable.

Whatever the outcome, Chelsea is assured a place in next season's European Cup Winners Cup, by virtue of Manchester United's qualifying for the Champions Cup. It all adds up to a topsy-turvy season for Chelsea which, at the turn of the year, looked to be heading for relegation during the longest losing sequence in its history.

Leeds United's 37-year-old veteran Gordon Strachan is to combine coaching duties as well as play time next season. The Scottish midfielder will be responsible for the club's 18-21 year-olds.

England coach Terry Venables made a surprise selection this week, when he included Aston Villa's 31-year-old captain and midfielder Kevin Richardson in his squad for the next two home internationals.

Equally surprising was that there was no place for Newcastle's 41-goal striker Andy Cole.

Mike Walker, the manager of Everton which narrowly avoided relegation from the Premier League, has won his first award with a club: a year's supply of jam. The prize is given by a food company to personalities who manage to "preserve" their dignity in a "sticky" situation.

Inter defeats Salzburg 1-0, captures UEFA Cup title

MILAN (AP) — Internazionale of Milan struggled past surprise Austrian finalist Salzburg 1-0 Wednesday night to capture the 1994 UEFA Cup, salvaging an otherwise disappointing season.

The Milan team won the UEFA Cup on a 2-0 aggregate score with 1-0 victories in each of the two legs.

Inter, which also won the UEFA Cup in 1991, became the fifth Italian team to win the European tournament in the last six years.

Dutch midfielder Wim Jonk scored Inter's only goal in the 63rd minute of the second-leg final at Milan's San Siro stadium.

It added to the goal tally by Italian international midfielder Nicola Bertini in the first leg at Vienna two weeks ago.

Jonk, fed by Uruguayan teammate Ruben Sosa, rushed into the Austrian penalty area, avoided a tackle by defender Leo Lainer and put the ball into the net between the post and goalie Otto Konrad from an angled position.

Jonk's goal, which ended Salzburg's hopes to become the first Austrian team to win a European tournament, came after 15 minutes of steady pressure by the visitors who put Inter's defense in serious trouble.

Inter's goalie Walter Zenga made a decisive save in the 56th minute on a powerful shot by midfielder Peter Artnor from 20 meters.

"Four minutes later good luck was on Zenga's side when a shot by Brazilian forward Marquinho hit the right post. The ball rebounded against the opposite post and bounced back into the field to the relief of a crowd of 81,000.

In the first half Sosa and Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp missed four easy scoring opportunities.

Taking advantage of bad mistakes by Austrian defenders, the Uruguayan forward and Bergkamp rushed into Salzburg's area but failed to put the ball past Konrad.

The Austrian goalie stopped two shots — one each by Sosa and Bergkamp — while two went out past the posts.

Zenga, a former national team goalie who was not included in the Italian World Cup squad for the finals in the US, made a series of saves in the final minutes of play, denying Salzburg a deserved goal.

The crowd gave Inter players a standing ovation as they paraded around the arena carrying the Cup, a consolation following a bad league season in which Inter barely escaped relegation.

"I'm very happy for this victory, which makes up for the many disappointments in the league," said Bergkamp, who will play for the Netherlands in the upcoming World Cup.

Sosa dedicated the victory to the Inter fans. "They gave us a decisive support tonight. I love this jersey and I hope I can stay in Milan," said the Uruguayan, who is on the transfer list although his contract with Inter expires in 1995.

Inter coach Giampiero Marini said his team deserved the UEFA title.

"I think we played better in both games. Salzburg proved tougher than expected, certainly the toughest team we have played in the Cup this season," the Italian coach said.

Inter's president Ernesto Pellegrini added: "This victory means a lot to us."

Isiah calls it quits

AUBURN HILLS (AP) — Isiah Thomas, one of the best point guards in basketball history, made it official Wednesday: It's time to let go of the game that has been such a powerful hold on his life.

Thomas, 33, who led the Detroit Pistons to two NBA championships during 13 years in the league, announced his retirement at a news conference packed with old teammates, friends and family.

But the announcement was a formality. Thomas had made it fairly clear he was finished when he tore his Achilles tendon April 19.

"This is a special day," said Thomas, fingering a large NBA championship ring on his left hand. "The hardest thing for an athlete to do is to know when to quit. When do you let go of the thing that has shaped your entire life?"

"This basketball, it's so powerful. It's your whole life."

It had been thought that Thomas would hold off on his retirement until after July 1 to help the team's salary cap. But he and Bill Davidson, the Pistons' managing partner, said that was wrong.

The team would be limited to half of Thomas's \$2.52 million salary in either case, they said, because he is retiring. Only if Thomas was leaving to play for another team could the Pistons use his entire salary slot to sign other players.

When he arrived in Detroit, Thomas was just 19 years old. The city and its basketball fans watched and marveled as he blossomed.

Devils down Bruins to go to Eastern finals

BOSTON (AP) — The preliminaries are over for the New Jersey Devils. Now it's on to the team they couldn't handle during the regular season.

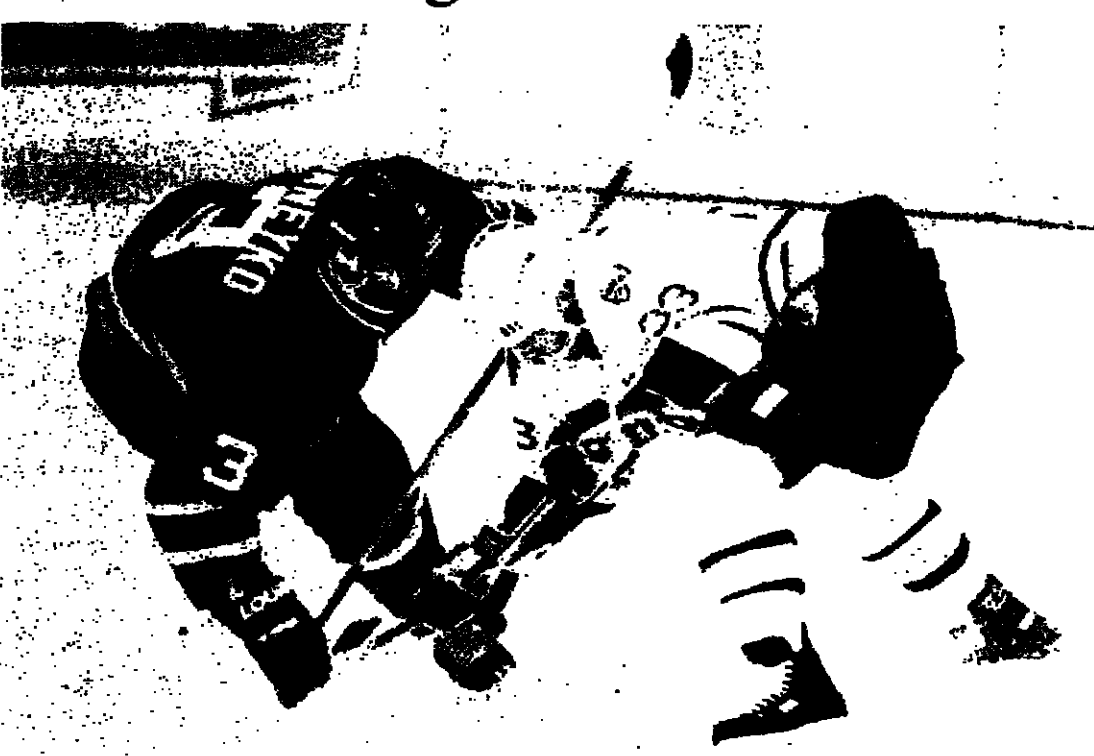
The Devils advanced to the Eastern Conference finals against the New York Rangers with a 3-2 win Wednesday night over the Boston Bruins. New Jersey won the final four games of the best-of-7 series after losing the first two at home.

John MacLean had two goals and two assists in Game 6 for the Devils, who open the conference finals Sunday at New York. The Rangers, winners of eight of nine playoff games, won all six of their regular-season meetings with the Devils.

"It's only fitting. I've felt all year the road to the Stanley Cup was through New York," said Devils forward Bernie Nicholls, a former Ranger. "I felt the whole year they were the best team. If you can't beat the best, you don't deserve to win."

The Western Conference final could be decided tonight as San Jose plays at Toronto with a 3-2 lead. The winner gets the Vancouver Canucks, who eliminated Dallas in five games.

The Devils-Rangers series matches the NHL's two best teams during the regular season. Only the Rangers had more than the Devils' 106 points, and that was largely because New York swept



HEAD TO HEAD — New Jersey defenseman Ken Danekyo cross checks Boston's Daniel Marois. (AP)

its games against New Jersey — outscoring the Devils 24-9 in those six games.

Other than the Los Angeles Kings, who won both their games against New Jersey this season, the Rangers were the only NHL team with a winning record against the Devils.

"I really don't think they've seen the best of us. I know we've seen the best of them," Nicholls said. "We really haven't figured

out a way to beat this team yet, but the playoffs are a whole different game. The key for us is to play a real tight defensive game, try to keep the score 0-0, and when we get opportunities we've got to take advantage of them."

The Devils did exactly that Wednesday to eliminate the Bruins, who lost five of seven games on home ice during the playoffs.

Goalie Chris Terreri stopped 38 shots to win his third straight game.

NHL Playoff Glance

Semifinals (Best of 7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Rangers win series 4-1
Wednesday's result:
New Jersey 5, Boston 3
New Jersey wins series 4-2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Vancouver wins series 4-1
San Jose leads Toronto 3-2
Last night's scheduled game:
San Jose at Toronto
No game tonight
Tomorrow's game:
San Jose at Toronto (if necessary)

Braves get revenge on Phillies with three-game sweep

ATLANTA (AP) — Deion Sanders hit a two-run homer and Fred McGriff added a solo shot as the Braves beat the Philadelphia Phillies 4-2 Wednesday to sweep a three-game series.

Greg Maddux (6-2) allowed both runs and six hits in 6½ innings as Atlanta rolled past the team it lost to in last season's NL playoffs. Maddux struck out six, walked none and led the Braves to their sixth victory in seven games. Greg McMichael pitched two innings for his seventh save in eight chances.

Curt Schilling (0-6), the MVP of last year's playoffs, gave up all four runs and nine hits in seven innings. The Phillies have lost seven of eight overall and 11 of 12 road games.

Expos 4, Mets 3
Darrin Fletcher had three hits and drove in two runs as host Montreal stopped the Mets' four-game winning streak.

Pedro Martinez (2-3) struck out eight in seven innings. Mel Rojas pitched two scoreless innings and struck out three for his ninth save in 10 tries.

Giants 6, Rockies 1
Bill Swift remained perfect in four decisions against Colorado and hit a run-scoring double.

Swift (5-3) scattered 10 hits in six innings, allowing at least one per inning. He struck out five and walked two.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Yankees 6, Indians 3

Danny Tartabull homered and Paul O'Neill got two more hits as host New York got its sixth straight win.

Jimmy Key (6-1) allowed three runs

and seven hits in seven innings, struck out five and walked one. Bob Wickman finished for his first save as the Yankees improved to 22-10, the best record in the majors and their best start since 1956.

Red Sox 7, Brewers 1

Aaron Sele (4-1) gave up seven hits in his first complete game of his career and Mo Vaughn homered and drove in three runs as host Boston stopped a season-high five-game losing streak.

Orioles 4, Blue Jays 1

Harold Baines and Chris Hoiles homered and Mike Mussina (5-1) scattered seven hits in his first complete game this year as host Baltimore swept Toronto for the first time since August 30-September 1, 1982.

White Sox 14, Mariners 6

Ron Karkovitz hit a grand slam and Julio Franco hit a three-run homer as host Chicago scored seven runs with two outs in the third inning.

WEDNESDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Atlanta 4, Philadelphia 2
San Francisco 4, Colorado 1
Pittsburgh 5, Florida 1
Montreal 4, New York 3
St. Louis 3, Chicago 2
Los Angeles 1, Houston 0
Cincinnati 9, San Diego 5

East Division

W L Pct. GB
Atlanta 21 11 .656 —
Montreal 18 15 .545 3½
New York 18 16 .526 4
Florida 17 16 .515 4
Philadelphia 12 21 .364 8½

Central Division

W L Pct. GB
Cincinnati 22 11 .667 —
Pittsburgh 17 14 .548 4
St. Louis 17 16 .515 5
Houston 17 16 .515 5
Chicago 9 22 .290 12

West Division

W L Pct. GB
San Francisco 10 16 .389 —
Los Angeles 17 17 .500 1
Colorado 14 17 .452 2½

WEDNESDAY'S AL RESULTS:

New York 6, Cleveland 3
Boston 7, Milwaukee 1
Detroit 6, Oakland 2
Baltimore 4, Toronto 1
Chicago 14, Seattle 6
Kansas City 9, Minnesota 0
California 8, Texas 6 (10)
California 13, Texas 1

East Division

W L Pct. GB
New York 22 10 .688 —
Boston 21 10 .677 ½
Detroit 21 12 .636 1½
Baltimore 17 17 .500 8
Toronto 14 18 .467 7

Central Division

W L Pct. GB
Chicago 18 14 .563 —
Minnesota 17 15 .529 1
Kansas City 16 15 .516 1½
Cleveland 14 16 .467 3
Minnesota 16 19 .451 4

West Division

W L Pct. GB
California 15 10 .608 —
Texas 13 18 .418 —
Seattle 13 19 .406 1½
Oakland 9 24 .273 5

Title beckons Mac. Haifa; NIS 20m. jackpot awaits

ORI LEWIS

THE National League championship moves into the final straight this weekend, with Maccabi Haifa able to see the light at the end of the long, dark tunnel to glory.

Fans, hoping to land the record NIS 20 million Sportoto jackpot will be glued to their radios today and tomorrow trying to glean every bit of information from games which have been spread more-or-less evenly over the weekend.

Four National League and five Second Division games are to be played this afternoon and the remaining six matches will be played tomorrow, as some prospective millionaires will suffer a sleepless night hoping that they have managed to forecast 15 correct results on the form.

Haifa will clinch the title tomorrow already, after which there will be three rounds left to play, if it beats Bnei Yehuda at Kiryat Eliezer tomorrow evening and Maccabi Tel Aviv loses at home to Maccabi Herzliya this afternoon.

The scenario is a little unlikely, however, as the Tel Avivians have not given up all hope of winning the title just yet. But with Haifa's immaculate record, Tel Aviv will need more than the odd Shabbat prayer if they are to turn the tables on their only serious rivals all season.

Haifa has won both encounters against Bnei Yehuda this season, and with the northerners looking in such splendid form, having still to lose a league match this season, the outcome would seem to be a mere formality.

The Haifaite will play a fully-fit squad and with one of their many super-talented players always taking on the role of destroyer, there appears to be little the Hativva Quarter side will be able to do to stop them.

Maccabi Tel Aviv has stumbled badly over the past two weekends, having dropped five points with a goalless draw in the Tel Aviv derby against Hapoel two weeks ago and a 2-1 away loss to Hapoel Petah Tikva last weekend.

But realistically, Maccabi will probably have to reconcile them-

selves to its fate and although they will go all-out to try and beat Maccabi Herzliya, Avraham Grant and his men will probably be more concerned about winning their State Cup semifinal on Tuesday against Hapoel Holon.

Beitar Jerusalem and Hapoel Beersheba, vying for third place and a place in Europe next season, have uneasy tasks ahead tomorrow.

Beitar hosts nemesis side Hapoel Tel Aviv at Teddy Stadium and Beersheba takes on Hapoel Petah Tikva. Only one point separates the two, with Beitar in third place and coming off a miserable 2-1 loss to Maccabi Netanya last Saturday. They will have to pull out all the stops to stay ahead in this race.

At the other end of the table, Hapoel Kfar Sava, next to bottom and looking to avoid the relegation playoff spot against the fourth-placed team in the Second Division, will need to beat resurgent Maccabi Petah Tikva and hope for Ironi Ashdod to stumble away to Hapoel Haifa, whose fate is now sealed.

Tomorrow's league program, taking place, as it does on the second Saturday in May, clashes with the English FA Cup final, the greatest annual showpiece event in world soccer.

The 113th Cup final, being contested between Manchester United and Chelsea, kicks off at 5:30 tomorrow afternoon (Israel time), but it will not be seen live on any Israeli station.

The IFA have again used their prerogative and issued a ban on local stations showing the game live.

It should, however be possible to see the great contest live on several satellite stations on Cable TV or on Jordan TV.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches kick off at 17:00 unless stated): Hapoel Haifa vs. Ironi Ashdod, Kiryat Eliezer, today; Hapoel Kfar Sava vs. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Kfar Sava, today; Maccabi Haifa vs. Bnei Yehuda, Kiryat Eliezer, tomorrow at 18:00; Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Herzliya, Ramat Gan, today; Hapoel Beersheba vs. Hapoel Petah Tikva, Beersheba, tomorrow; Beitar Jerusalem vs. Hapoel Ashdod, Ashdod, tomorrow at 18:00; Hapoel Holon vs. Maccabi Netanya, Holon, today.

Japan closed to Maradona

TOKYO (AP) — The Japanese government said yesterday it will not grant a visa to Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona because of history of drug abuse.

Maradona, captain of Argentina's national team, hoped to travel with the Argentine national squad to play in the Kirin Cup against France and Japan on May 22-26.

Only on weekdays can you enjoy these unique features in THE JERUSALEM POST

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- Fortnightly, Daniel Baum tells you all you want to know about computers.
- Sports doubleheader: Two pages of local and international action.

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- And the "law report": Asher Felix Landau's unique review of court cases in the news.

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- The Middle East page, brings you an Arab news digest, articles on and by Israel's neighbors.

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And don't miss, EVERY WEEKDAY: extended financial pages; world stock market reports; Israeli, American and British sports coverage; local and foreign feature stories; and provocative, controversial cartoons by Oleg, Ronnen and Lurie.

Court backs striking pharmacists

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Tel Aviv Labor Court last night took the unusual step of refusing the Health Ministry's request for a temporary restraining order against 400 of the 1,200 public-sector pharmacists who have been striking since Sunday.

The ministry's representative argued that the strike had caused shortages of medications and disruptions of the functioning of public hospitals and community health fund clinics. The sanctions are to continue today.

Judge Viret Livne said the strike was legal and its results – the steady decline in supplies of drugs – should have been foreseen by the ministry, which "should have prepared for this eventuality."

She instructed the ministry to apply to the pharmacists' special appeals committee about supplying vital drugs that are unavailable.

This committee will meet this morning to hear the requests. Negotiations between the Treasury and the union have been fruitless. The pharmacists are asking for a 40 percent raise, similar to that won by other sectors in the health field, but the Treasury is unwilling to grant more than 30 percent, the union says.

Kupat Holim Clalit continues to allow its members to fill prescriptions at all private pharmacies if they purchase "stamps" in health fund offices, or if they pay NIS 4 for a "regular item" and NIS 8 for antibiotics if they want to avoid going to clinics to purchase stamps. However, imported drugs have not been approved and tested by pharmacists since Sunday, so every day that passes without pharmacists on the job will make shortages more severe.

23 Meshulam followers remanded for 12 days

RAINE MARCUS

ANOTHER 41 of self-styled rabbi Uzi Meshulam's supporters, including two reserve pilots, who were arrested during the two-day police siege this week, appeared in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court for a remand hearing yesterday.

Meshulam was remanded for 15 days on Wednesday, after Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz gained his trust and invited him to a meeting at the Avia hotel in Yehud, where he was arrested.

Reports that an undercover agent, stationed in the Yehud house, was used during the siege to provide information were denied by police.

"One supporter who didn't agree with extreme and violent methods did help the police by giving information about the general atmosphere there. But he refused to tell us about weapons in the house or any other facts," said one officer.

Eighteen supporters were released on bail or placed under partial house arrest and banned from entering the house in Yehud, still occupied by Meshulam's wife and children.

Twenty-three others – suspect-

ed of attempted murder, aggravated assault, incitement to rebellion, illegal possession of arms and explosives, assaulting a police officer, conspiracy and other charges – were detained for 12 days.

In requesting their remand, Superintendent Arye Silverman said they had committed a series of serious crimes against the public and the state.

Their release, said Silverman, would disrupt further investigations and the suspects were likely to return to the Yehud house.

"The group holed themselves up in the house in a military fashion, posing a threat to the public, surroundings, lives of residents and police officers," he said.

Documents outlining strategy details were seized from the house and presented to the court, as were a series of photographs taken over the past two months.

"Charges of attempted murder relate to most of the suspects here," said Silverman.

Police still do not know where Meshulam and his supporters got their massive arsenal, including IDF grenades and other equipment.

Dep. Cmdr. Shimon Shervit, the head of the investigation, said that the group intended to use the arsenal, and asked the court to treat the group collectively, without differentiating between suspects.

The suspects' lawyer, Shaul Aharon, argued that Meshulam and his supporters were supporters of a cause – the alleged kidnapping of Yemenite children.

"All in all they merely wanted the government to investigate the missing children," said Aharon. "These people did not shoot at anyone, nor did they intend to murder or maim. They are not terrorists."

But in remanding 23 men, Judge Dan Arbel said that "the case of the disappearance of the Yemenite children is a serious affair, but this does not justify the methods used. I still don't understand why the peaceful residents of Yehud had to suffer a reign of terror because of this group."

Environmental groups hold special holiday activities

LIAT COLLINS

THE Shavuot holiday weekend is expected to bring thousands of hikers and nature lovers into the country's parks, reserves, woods and mountains, and all the environmental groups are holding special activities.

This year, you don't have to go into the countryside to find nature-related activities. Tel Aviv's Florentine Quarter, sponsored by Project Renewal, is holding a free environmental happening from 10 this morning with recycling workshops, dance and theater performances, classical music concerts and presentations by animal welfare groups.

Tomorrow night, an exhibition on the "Green Route" opens at the Study Center for the Council for a Beautiful Israel at Tel Aviv's Ganai Yehoshua.

Further afield, as in previous years, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel is holding a series of walks on the Hermon over Shavuot in memory of Yehuda Weiss, a guide at the field school, who was killed during the Lebanon War.

The National Parks Authority's sites at Zippori, Meggido, Uvdit

and Mekorot Hayarkon will also have free guided trips.

For details (in Hebrew) on all SPNI, JNF and NPA activities, call 03-375222. For a recorded message listing just NPA events, call 03-6961212.

The weather for the coming four days is expected to be hot and dry and the Nature Reserves Authority and other bodies are warning hikers to take sufficient water on excursions and to take care to prevent wildfires.

Basheva Tsar adds: In Upper Nazareth yesterday, some 5,000 people participated in a sapling relay race from the Tagar Sports Center to the industrial zone where the saplings were planted, as part of the pre-Shavuot activities.

Later, the main street through the new neighborhood of Har Yona was named for the JNF at a ceremony attended by Mayor Menahem Ariav and JNF director-general Mitzhak Eliashev. The fund prepared the infrastructure in the neighborhood where already 2,500 new housing units for immigrants have been built, most of them modest duplexes with gardens.

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Gay Pride Month events announced

SASHA SADAN

THE Society for the Protection of Personal Rights (SPPR) for Gay Men, Lesbians, and Bisexuals yesterday announced its events for next month's Gay Pride Month.

While many of the society's officers posed for photographers at the Tel Aviv press conference, the press was asked to refrain from taking pictures without permission to keep the confidentiality of those who had not gone public about their sexuality.

Asked about the difficulty faced by gay men living within the Orthodox community, Amit Kama, of Tel Aviv, executive director of the SPRP, said many observant gay men live "in fear of modesty squads that act like the KGB."

The SPRP activists said they had no better statistics on homosexuality than the figure used in other countries – sociologists estimate about 10 percent of the population is gay.

Gay Pride Month actually begins this month with several ceremonies and events, including a memorial ceremony for homosexuals who died in the Holocaust at Yad Vashem on May 30.

On June 2, MK Yael Dayan (Labor) will be a guest at a party marking a regional conference of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian, Jewish Organizations. Films relating to homosexuality will be shown at the cinema-theques in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa from June 11-22.

Liora Moriel, past chairwoman of the SPRP, said that the Ministry of Tourism had offered NIS 1,500 to the society to help with organizing the international aspects of the conference.



Participants in the country's sailing championships sail past Tel Aviv yesterday. (Y. Hadari)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Milo, Kessar agree on TA subway

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar yesterday agreed to establish a subway for the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality.

Kessar said he did not oppose the idea, but believed a light rail plan for the area would also be necessary. He added that the main obstacle to creating a subway for the city would be financial.

Milo said that without cooperation between the ministry and the municipality, the city would become one big traffic jam. *Itm*

Anti-discrimination bills okayed

The ministerial committee on legislation yesterday decided to support two bills which would forbid employers to discriminate in hiring on the basis of age. The committee also decided to allow freedom of conscience on a bill by MK Haim Kaufman (Likud), which would eliminate the penalty for quitting one's Knesset faction – being forbidden to run in the next elections – if the MK's reason for leaving is that the party has betrayed its principles.

Judea, Samaria is debtors' haven

Judea and Samaria have turned into a haven for debtors, because the Bailiff's Office there is not doing its job properly, a petition to the High Court of Justice charged yesterday. The petitioner, a creditor named Dr. Alex Weiss, asked the court to order the office to imprison

debtors who violated repayment orders issued by courts within Israel.

Fine for throwing stun grenade

Ilan Hadida, of Ofakim, was fined NIS 500 by Beersheba Magistrates Court yesterday for throwing a stun grenade at the home of Benny Rabinowitz, a journalist for the haredi newspaper *Yated Ne'eman*.

The incident occurred on October 24, 1993, during a demonstration protesting what Rabinowitz had written about Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. No one was hurt by the grenade and no damage was done. *Itm*

'Bar Association rule unjust'

A Bar Association rule limiting the ability to switch lawyers is unjust and should be canceled, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

The rule states that before another lawyer can take a client's case, the client must agree to accept the bar's arbitration regarding the amount of money he owes the first lawyer, and give the bar a sizable bank guarantee. The case was heard yesterday, but the verdict will be issued at a later date.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the Ace of spades, 10 of hearts, King of diamonds and seven of clubs.

One killed, 5 hurt in crash
One man was killed, two infants suffered serious head injuries, a pregnant woman was severely hurt, and three others were lightly injured last night in a head-on collision between two cars between Nazareth and Afula. *Itm*

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NEWS IN FOCUS

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1994

Ramon takes detour, plans return to main road

The Histadrut's new Haim will have to bail out sometime to save his political life, Sarah Honig writes

THOSE with keen political ears have no doubt noticed that Haim Ramon can never be pinned down on just how long he plans to serve as Histadrut secretary-general. Even Ramon's closest cronies are betting that he would like to make his tenure on Tel Aviv's Azrieli Street as short as possible.

Ramon's sights are set further and higher. Although his revenge against his Labor foes is no doubt sweet, the Histadrut is likely to be a millstone around his neck. Reforming it may not be as simple as it sounds.

Laborites have compared the situation to that of the Eastern European economies. Expectations there were sky-high after the fall of communism, but the delivery on the promise of market economics was a letdown.

As an astute politician, Ramon understands that he will have to make good on at least some of his promises. He will have to get the ball rolling and then duck and make a quick getaway with as many political assets and as little damage as possible to his shining armor.

Ramon needs to maintain the hype for a longer stretch of time than could be comfortable for him. He must remain a harbinger of change until the time and the circumstances are ripe for him to leap to his next objective: the premiership.

Theoretically, he has all the time in the world. At 44, he can afford to let Prime Minister Rabin run for another term in 1996.

Indeed, he has cleverly striven to demonstrate loyalty by pledging allegiance to Rabin. But a long wait would mean getting bogged down in the labor federation's mire. The reforming zeal is bound to fizzle out after a while.

At the same time, Rabin isn't getting any younger. No one can be sure that he will run again or



that he can serve out a full second term.

Ramon is the past few weeks was carried on the crest of the public's unabashed hatred for the Histadrut establishment and the Labor Party machine. However, it is a moot point whether he will be able to hold onto the voters' imagination when he is the incumbent.

The faster Ramon moves back into the mainstream of the political arena, the safer his political future will be. For now, Ramon has successfully completed a courageous "detour" by bypassing the middle generation of ambitious Labor politicians like Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Moshe Shalom, Shimon Shetreet and Uzi Baram. In Ramon's own age group, there is no one with his flair.

helps any candidate for the premiership. The appeal of the Histadrut's nitty-gritty work is limited.

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Ramon must keep generating excitement, until Rabin is ready to leave office. It's no easy task, though Ramon is a master of the

new brand of politics he introduced to Israel. The personal election campaign for Rabin in 1992, first for the Labor No. 1 slot and then for the premiership, was Ramon's brainchild.

It was nurtured by the Likud's Binyamin Netanyahu in his bid for the party leadership and it produced a landslide. Ramon daringly put his own recipe to use again only weeks before the Histadrut elections and the formula worked once more.

THIS IS the real revolution that the Ramon win signals. It's the end of an era for those on whom the TV cameras do not smile. It's the end of an era for untrustworthy or lackluster party bosses. It is unlikely that a Shimon Peres can ever wage a credible campaign again.

This is despite the fact that Peres is Labor's Mr. Party Machine par excellence. He had all the controls at his fingertips, but it

did not work in this age of media heroes.

If one examines Peres's record in party battles in recent years, he lost only twice, and in both cases the humiliation was dealt by Ramon.

The first loss for Peres came after his protégé, Ramon, betrayed him in 1992, enabling Rabin to wrest the nomination for prime minister.

This week, Ramon handed Peres his second defeat when he slapped Peres's allies - incumbent Histadrut secretary-general Haim Haberfeld and party secretary-general Nissim Zivili - hard across the face.

In between, as long as the battles were held inside party forums, Peres's machine won each and every one of them handily.

In other words, though Peres is top cat in the central committee, he cannot hold his own when the general public votes in primaries or elections. Ostensibly, Rabin should be delighted.

Peres remains his foe despite the idyllic image both seek to project. But by now Rabin and Peres are joined like Siamese twins. Peres could pull Rabin down with him and spell the political demise of the septuagenarians.

RABIN is not a free agent. Had Peres not been breathing down his neck, he would instantly have readmitted Ramon to the party and pretended that his own gross mismanagement of the Ramon episode never happened.

Rabin does not want his peace disturbed. But he bungled the Ramon crisis by not daring to stand up to Peres, and he will have a hard time doing so now, lest he violently rock Labor's rickety boat.

Rabin thus finds himself caught between the Peres devil and the Ramon deep blue sea. He must appease Ramon to prevent his setting up a new party with Meretz, but he cannot do so without antagonizing Peres.

Odds are that, in the short run, Rabin will take the easy way out and strike a coalition deal in the Histadrut with Ramon. In the hope that this will lead to a coalition deal in the Knesset bringing both Ramon's three-MK contingent and Shas firmly back to his minority government.

But, even here, Ramon could be vindictive and demand a price that Peres could not accept. Ramon can make even the seemingly easy way a very hard one for Rabin.

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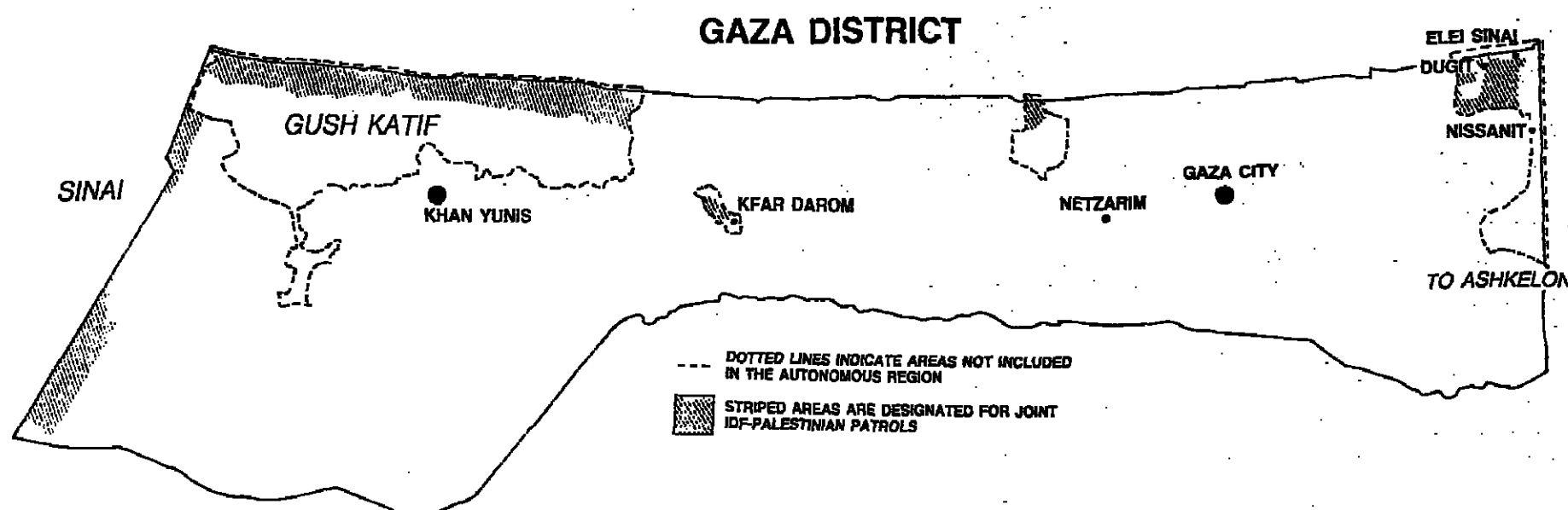
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The hard part begins now in Gaza

To the impartial observer, Palestinian-Israeli security arrangements in Gaza appear to have at least 40 shades of gray, Alon Pinkas reports



In striped areas, designated for joint IDF-Palestinian patrols, it is unclear how problems will be resolved.

It has already become a cliché to say that more than a measure of goodwill will be needed if Israelis and Palestinians are to succeed in cooperating over security in Gaza.

It is also hackneyed to describe the first phase of reconciliation between Israel and the PLO as complicated and obstacle-ridden.

The security part comprises over 100 pages of the 250-page Cairo agreement, which also includes appendices and three maps, and is entitled: "Security Arrangements of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement." As of this week it faces the crucial test of reality.

The inner workings of IDF-Palestinian security cooperation and coordination appear to have been meticulously formulated, but are perhaps too fragile to deal with the problems that will inevitably arise.

Some in the army choose to characterize the security arrangements as fiendishly difficult. An impartial, apolitical observer could be forgiven for concluding

that there are at least 40 shades of gray when it comes to "security" in Gaza.

"First and foremost it will be a test of goodwill - and plenty of it is needed on both sides," says a senior officer in Southern Command.

Other senior officers, some of whom participated in the negotiations leading to the drafting of the agreement signed last week, are also expressing their reservations.

"The army's task is to carry out to the best of its ability any order from the political echelon," says one. "We will. But despite the careful wording of the details, it all seems too frail, too theoretical. I can only hope that goodwill and flexibility will prevail, rather than rigidity."

ON TUESDAY the IDF evacuated the Deir el-Balah refugee camp. "Hopefully forever," said the major in charge of handing over to Palestinian police representatives the symbolic key.

Within two weeks, barring un-

expected delays, the IDF will pull out of most of the Gaza Strip. During most of April and the first half of May, the IDF dismantled its installations and headquarters; it no longer maintains a permanent or base presence in Gaza's heavily populated areas.

"We began planning for this as early as September 1993, immediately after the Oslo accord," says Major-General Matan Vilna'i, OC Southern Command. "All our preparations and redeployment blueprints were code-named 'Operation Rainbow.' We planned for worst-case scenarios, although we doubted that they would occur. Nevertheless, we have always had to anticipate opponents of the agreement violently attempting to disrupt its implementation."

"I must tell you that the maps we drafted then, reflecting our concept of security and defense in the Gaza Strip, are identical to the maps signed in Cairo. We have not compromised on any security detail, and Israel demanded and retained exclusive responsibility for all external security. Our task is to defend the State of Israel and

the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip. Thus, we did not recommend the dismantling of any settlement on the basis of inability to defend it."

IT MAY be reassuring to know that negotiators - including two major generals - Deputy Chief of General Staff Amnon Shashak and Planning Branch head Uzi Dayan - were uncompromising when push came to shove on security matters.

But developments on the ground could prove more tricky than the seven-month negotiations required for the agreement.

The IDF will be using five main arteries in the Gaza Strip. The one running from north to south begins at a border checkpoint south of Kibbutz Yad Mordechai and ends in Netzer Hazani inside Gush Katif. Four crossroads, running east to west, will lead from Israel into the Gaza Strip.

Border stations will be established at all crossing points. The northernmost will lead from the Kibbutz Sa'ad junction into the

Strip and intersect with the main north-south road inside Gaza City. The second will lead from just south of Kibbutz Be'eri, intersect with the main north-south road, and end in Netzarim. The third will start in Kibbutz Kissufim and intersect with the north-south road just north of Kfar Darom. The southernmost road will cross into the Gaza Strip near Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak and end in the Morag settlement.

Three lateral roads will connect Israel with Israeli settlements.

These roads will be under the IDF's exclusive control (although joint patrols will be conducted); the IDF also has the authority for pursuit into Palestinian territory.

ASIDE from the six border stations (the southernmost serving also as the Rafiah border terminal), the IDF will redeploy in five bases (from north to south): near Dugit, in Netzarim, outside the Strip near Kissufim, the IDF GHQ south of Khan Yunis, and the southernmost base near Morag.

Along the northern and eastern borders of the Strip, an electronic fence is being erected.

"It is a fallacy to think that a fence will hermetically seal off either Israel or the Israeli settlements, but it's another measure we are taking to ensure security," says Maj.-Gen. Dayan.

As for the much-publicized security cooperation between the IDF and the Palestinian police: in "yellow" areas, designated for joint IDF-Palestinian patrols, it is unclear how problems will be resolved.

These areas consist of an L-shaped sector which includes Gush Katif along the southern coast, extends east through Rafiah, and ends near Kibbutz Kerem-Shalom; two enclaves surrounding Kfar Darom and Netzarim; the northwest corner of the Strip around Elei Sinai and Dugit, and the four east-west crossings from Israel into the Gaza Strip.

If a joint patrol cannot resolve a crisis on the spot, it will report to the District Coordination Offices (DCOs) located in Gaza City and

Khan Yunis, as well as in Jericho, which in turn can bring the matter up with the Joint Security Coordination and Cooperation Committee (JSC).

In this way, a decision will be made, if one side does not exercise its right of veto. That applies also to situations when a patrol reaches Israeli settlement clusters in a "zoned" area, demarcated with a blue line. An incident, even a violent one, requires joint Israeli-Palestinian resolution, which is why Joint Mobile Units (JMU) have been established.

"According to the agreement, no two armed forces will ever split responsibility in a given place and time," says Vilna'i. "Nor will we transfer full power to the Palestinians before our security redeployment has been completed."

The withdrawal from Gaza is irreversible, say the politicians. Under no foreseeable circumstances, says an IDF brigadier-general, will we reenter the Gaza Strip. "But this does not mean that the security cooperation part of the agreement is viable," he adds.

US may still have some diplomatic tricks up its sleeve

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's motionless response to the turmoil on stage during last week's Cairo signing has fueled the public perception that he lacks the forceful personality of his predecessor, James Baker.

However, Christopher may still surprise his critics. His visit here on Monday, the second in three weeks, signals that he is willing to launch diplomacy by attrition to effect an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement. After personal foreign policy reversals in Bosnia, Haiti and Somalia, Christopher sees an opportunity to score a foreign policy success on the Israeli-Syrian track.

Jerusalem, therefore, will be seeing a lot of Christopher this year. It took Baker eight trips to persuade Israel to attend the Madrid peace conference in 1991. It will certainly take no less time for Christopher to bring about an Israeli-Syrian peace.

After Christopher's last visit, both Prime Minister Yitzhak Ra-

bin and Syrian President Hafez Assad put forward their opening gambits. While they say their positions are final, in fact, both are schooled in Oriental bazaar bargaining.

Indeed, an Israeli-Syrian peace accord may not be as far away as people think, since many conceptual breakthroughs have already been made.

Rabin has already publicly accepted the idea of dismantling Golan settlements in an address to the United Kibbutz Movement, the very sponsors of some of those places. The prime minister has already spoken of "deep" and "significant" Golan withdrawal in return for full peace, and told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee recently that withdrawal will have to be deeper than the IDF would prefer.

During Christopher's last visit, Assad made clear that after Israel fully withdraws from the Golan, he will establish embassies and other accoutrements of normalization with Israel.

After several foreign-policy failures, US Secretary of State Christopher believes he can succeed with the Israeli-Syrian track, David Makovsky reports

This is something that Israel has sought for a long time.

Within 24 hours, Assad responded to Rabin's "package" proposal for withdrawal, the nature of peace, and security arrangements. Indeed, Assad instructed his aides to stay up all night to come up with what Israelis concede was a detailed response.

Both Rabin and Assad have already accepted the principles of demilitarization, limited force zones around the Golan, and deployment of international observers to ensure terms of peace are kept, just as they did in the 1974 Disengagement Agreement.

Arab news reports say Syria has already recognized that in any

deal with Israel it will have to give Israel access to early warning stations on the Golan and disarm Hizbullah in southern Lebanon.

US officials believe that the Israeli-Syrian gaps on security arrangements are bridgeable. As talks become more serious, a senior Pentagon official has now quietly joined the security aspects of some of these talks.

Both Israel and Syria believe they do not have an infinite amount of time. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke recently of his government having exactly one year to make a deal with Syria before Israel begins pre-election jockeying. Assad also apparently informed Christopher that he realizes if there is too much delay, he could risk being faced with a Likud government that would not be as forthcoming on Golan withdrawal.

However, while each side knows the elements of a deal, for bargaining purposes, neither wants to admit publicly that progress has been made. A key prob-

lem is that instead of creating a positive negotiating dynamic, the opposite has occurred. A historic lack of trust between Israel and Syria is reinforced by the negotiating tactics of each side. Neither Israel nor Syria has an interest in crediting the other with any progress, fearing this will only put greater onus on them to respond with a greater concession.

For example, instead of Israel publicly recognizing Syria for accepting the principle of establishing embassies, Jerusalem prefers to keep quiet. So too, Syria. Rabin speaks of dismantling Golan settlements, and the only favorable response comes from Assad, but from the government-controlled *Tishrin* newspaper. After applauding Rabin on one day, it continues to attack him the next.

Israeli-Syrian differences on a Golan deal include:

- Withdrawal: Rabin told Christopher that Israel would launch a three-stage withdrawal over at least five years, which would begin



Christopher: May use interest in 'off-the-table' benefits to move talks along. (AP)

with the return of Druse villages but did not specify the end point of withdrawal. But Assad would like withdrawal completed much sooner. He told Christopher that he fears the Likud will assume power in 1996. He apparently noted Benjamin Netanyahu's statement that he might not keep the deal with the PLO, and therefore

wonders if Likud can be trusted to keep a Syrian deal. Therefore, he would like withdrawal concluded before 1996.

• Normalization: Israel said it wants Syria to open an embassy at the end of the first stage of withdrawal, when Israel returns the Druse villages. Syria responded that normalization can come only at the end of full withdrawal, not before.

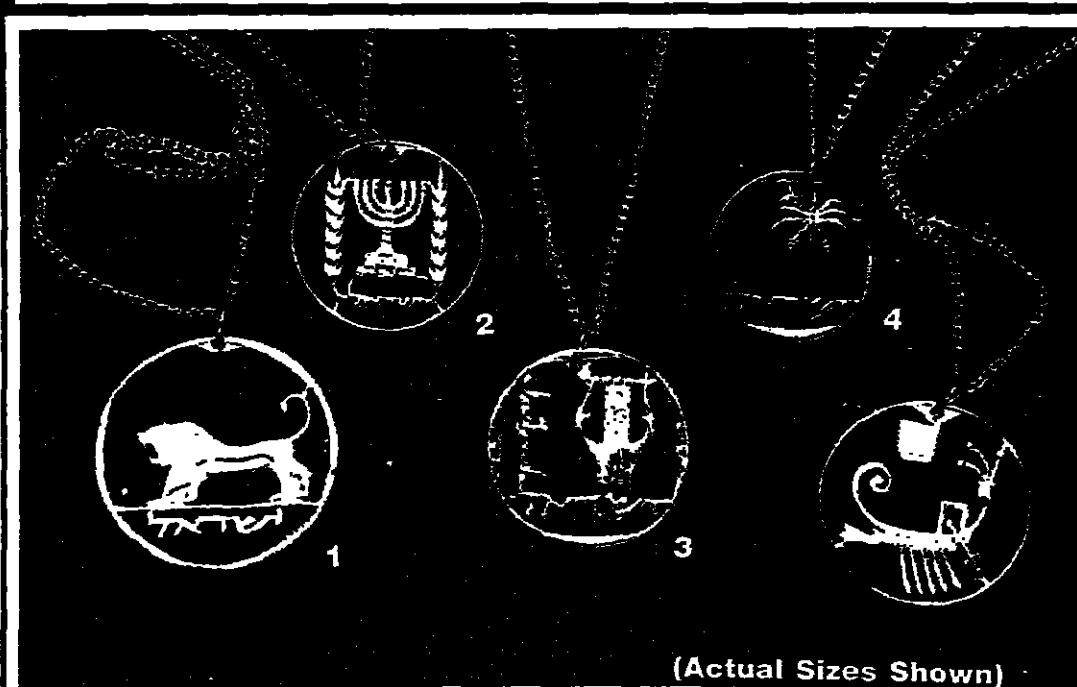
The spotlight is now on Christopher to use the baseline positions of each side to narrow differences. With Syria saying the time is not yet ripe for direct upgraded talks with the Israel, Peres apparently would like to see a more activist Christopher policy of bridging proposals. However, the US is believed to share Rabin's view that this is premature.

One method Christopher may use to move talks ahead is utilizing both Israel's and Syria's interest in "off-the-table" benefits.

Israel reportedly seeks a \$5 billion package for US security assistance to compensate for the loss of Golan. Syria wants to be removed from US blacklists on terrorism and drugs.

Christopher sees the negotiations as a marathon, and despite the growing public skepticism of his capabilities, the owl diplomat believes he will surprise many and have the stamina to prevail.

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CHANGE IN DATE OF UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

July 1994 Session

Because of timetable changes in the academic year, necessitated by the strike at the universities, we have had to change the date for the July Session to:

Sunday, July 24, 1994

The examination can be taken in Hebrew, Arabic, Combined English, Russian, French, Spanish

Registered examinees who have recognized medical handicaps or learning disabilities will take the exam on Friday, July 22, 1994.

Last date for registering for the July Session: June 1, 1994

Those who have registered for the July Session will receive a notice, inviting them to sit the examination on the new date.

An envelope containing the registration form and explanatory booklet, written in all the above languages, is available at university book shops and stores of the Steimatzky chain, and may also be obtained by writing to the National Institute for Testing and Evaluation, address as above, enclosing a remittance of NIS 15. The completed forms must reach the institute by the last date for registering.

Best-laid plan that went nowhere

THE Shuafat village council, officially disbanded nearly three decades ago, has been meeting again.

Although long without political power or financial resources, the council regained clout in recent months thanks largely to the policies of the Jerusalem Municipality.

Comprising 21 elderly men who were originally elected under Jordanian rule, the council began holding meetings last year in a last-ditch effort to get City Hall to approve a zoning plan for Shuafat.

"We are only asking that we be treated as other city residents," says chairman Sa'id Ammori, 64. He was first elected to the council in 1965, when Shuafat was a small village north of Jerusalem. The council was disbanded two years later when Israel took control of eastern Jerusalem and Shuafat was annexed to the city.

For over a decade, Shuafat and neighboring Beit Hanina — also annexed in 1967 — have waited for city and state approval of their zoning plans. Without the plans, construction in the neighborhoods is forbidden.

Two years ago, Master Plan 3000 B for Beit Hanina and Shuafat was approved with much fanfare, and detailed zoning plans were expected, soon afterwards.

Zoning plans set the exact codes under which building may be carried out and are needed before construction can begin.

"This was a great victory for Jerusalem's Arabs, the municipality and [former mayor] Teddy Kolek," says former deputy mayor Avraham Kehila, who held the planning portfolio under Kolek.

Master Plan 3000 B was heralded for allowing the construction of some 7,500 new homes, over a dozen new schools and kindergartens, as well as other public institutions in the neighborhoods.

At the time, municipal leaders said the plan demonstrated that the city did indeed look after the interests of its Arab residents.

Jerusalem City Hall approved a blueprint for developing Shuafat two years ago, but has now shelved it. Bill Hutman reports

BUT THINGS did not work out as foreseen. Not a single home, school or park has been constructed in Beit Hanina and Shuafat under Master Plan 3000 B.

Ammori and other residents of the north Jerusalem neighborhoods say they are not surprised. "There are different policies for Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem," the council head says.

"Just look around you. Pisgat Ze'ev was built on land expropriated from our village. The Shuafat Ridge haredi project now under construction was also built on our land, after they took it from us on the grounds that it would be used for a public project," Ammori says.

He often refers to the massive development of Jewish neighborhoods around Shuafat to demonstrate how little is being done for the village.

Shuafat, which once covered over 10,000 dunams, is left with 2,000 under the detailed zoning plan now awaiting approval, according to Sami Awoud, a local engineer who advises the village council.

He argues that Detailed Zoning Plan 3456 A for Shuafat was drawn up to prevent growth in the neighborhood.

Some 42 percent of the land remaining in the village has been designated for "green areas" — off-limits to development. He says this has nothing to do with keeping the neighborhood beautiful.

"For years we had a beautiful view in all directions. But [the authorities] allowed orange and olive groves to be torn up to build Jewish neighborhoods next to us," says the 34-year-old engineer.

He says large tracts of land are to be expropriated for construction of parks and public institutions, while no decision has been made regarding alternative land to be given to property-owners whose land is taken.

REALISTICALLY, only about 750 new units — and not 7,500 as was publicized — can be built under the zoning plan, at least in the near future, says Awoud. Ownership of much of the land in the village has not been registered, and this, residents say, will delay construction even more.

Awoud and Ammorinote that four-story buildings are allowed on only a small strip along the Jerusalem-Ramallah road designated as a business district. Shuafat residents point out that two plots zoned for four-story buildings, even though they do not adjoin the main road, are owned by Jews.

The detailed plan excludes the homes and businesses of several dozen village families just north of the Pisgat Ze'ev — French Hill junction. The owners will not be able to build because they are outside the plan's area.

"THE PLAN is better, but not much better, than nothing," says one city official involved in drawing up the plan.

But as it happens, the arguments over its pros and cons remain academic. If the planning process had gone through as normal for Master Plan 3000 B, detailed zoning plans would have been completed long ago allowing residents to begin construction. Last month, Detailed Plan 3456

A was set to be approved. But Mayor Ehud Olmert held up approval, citing a clause in the plan that would give retroactive approval to homes built without permits on green areas.

Olmert demanded that an investigation be carried out to see how many homes had been illegally built in the green areas. It remains unclear, however, why.

The spokesman says the mayor was concerned that by giving approval for illegal homes built in the past he might be setting a dangerous precedent. The spokesman says it was possible such a move would hurt the city's chances of taking legal action in other areas of the city against building code violators.

Shuafat residents charge that the mayor called for the investigation simply to delay approval of the plan, first presented in 1981.

Several city officials confirmed that there was no reason to hold up approval. The illegal homes built on green areas have been standing for years, and it was unlikely that the mayor would order them demolished, they say.

The officials speculated that the plan was held up in a last-ditch effort to prevent growth in an Arab sector of the city, reflecting a policy that has long been maintained by City Hall and the government.

THE STRICT state-imposed quota on new Arab housing in the capital is no longer a secret and is openly discussed. Master Plan 3000 B was originally intended to include nearly 20,000 homes. This number was slashed because of the quota.

"Olmert knows that this is a critical time for Jerusalem. He doesn't want large-scale Arab construction to begin, particularly in predominantly Arab sections of northern Jerusalem, in the next year or two," says one city official, on condition of anonymity.

However, Ammori is not critical of Olmert. He says he has come to expect little from the au-



Shuafat council member Sa'id Ammori, with his grandchildren in the Jerusalem neighborhood: "We are only asking that we be treated as other city residents." (Nissan Shorer)

thorities in the way of better treatment for his neighborhood.

The council, however, continues to meet, as often as once a week, in the hope of forcing change, at least with regard to housing policy.

The Cairo agreement signed last week by Israel and the PLO gave the village council increased incentive to fight Israel's efforts to establish facts on the ground in Jerusalem and ensure its control of the city, Ammori says.

The council operates with the approval of Faisal Hussein and the PLO leadership. "It's nothing political. We have just had enough of being told, 'Next year, next year things will be all right,'" Ammori says.

If animal abuse is child's play, what happens when children grow up?

IT was a photo so gory that only one tabloid dared run it.

Even that paper purposely blurred the picture which showed a dog whose legs and nose had been hacked off. It was taken in Tel Aviv two weeks ago. So was the picture of a dog whose face had been battered into bloody pulp.

"When one of the dogs we found was mauled to death, it showed that he hadn't lost his faith in human beings even after all they'd done to him," says Let the Animals Live spokeswoman Etti Altman.

She finds it increasingly difficult to trust people after all the cruelty cases she's seen. "Whoever can do this to an animal can do it to a person too," she says.

"We were not surprised to hear that the youths arrested for randomly shooting people with an air rifle in Tel Aviv streets [last month] admitted to shooting cats in the past," says Robi Danelin, spokeswoman for Noah, the Federation of Animal Welfare Groups in Israel. "We also recently heard of a case of a new immigrant, accused of killing his friend, who had previously hacked a dog to death and cooked it."

Tel Aviv police looking into the abuse of the two dogs are examining various possibilities: that the cruelty was the act of a psychopath, of youths out for kicks or an entrance rite to a satanic cult.

"It's very difficult to prove the satanic connection, but we know it exists," says Tamara Mor, spokeswoman of Lev LeChai. "In Savyon, for example, we're investigating the case of three black cats

who disappeared from their homes and in each case satanic graffiti were found on nearby walls."

All animal welfare groups have noticed an increase in reported attacks in recent years, but no one can say whether this means more cruelty is taking place or greater public awareness is leading to more reports being filed. No government authority keeps animal abuse statistics.

Mor, whose group deals primarily with cats, says her organization receives more than 20 complaints a week of dogs being set against cats by their owners "and another 20 or so cases of animals burned, thrown into pits, hanged, beaten, skinned and so on."

"There are more cats [than dogs] on the street, so they are more accessible to sadists who want to torture them. They are also easier. People rarely pick on a Doberman, but torturing defenseless kittens is child's play."

The frequency of cruelty peaks at certain times of the year. "During Lag ba'Omer, we always have reports of cats and dogs thrown on fires. We had three known cases this year and several suspected cases. Also, July and August are terrible. Schoolchildren are on holiday and pass the time by torturing kittens."

Altman says her group receives more than 10 reports a week. Similar figures are quoted by most of the SPCA shelters, SOS Animals and other animal welfare associations around the country.

THE POSSIBLE link between child abuse, animal abuse and

It is no great challenge to torture a trusting, defenseless animal; studies indicate that perpetrators may go on to commit violent crimes against people. Liat Collins reports

adult criminality was the focus of a recent conference at Kfar Macabiah called "Preventing Violence in Society," attended by hundreds of teachers. Cosponsored by the US-based CHAI (Concern for Helping Animals in Israel) and the Education Ministry, the conference concentrated on what has become known as "humane education," teaching children to have empathy for all living creatures.

Most speakers based their reports on two pioneer American studies in the field. *Cruelty to Animals* by Guy Hodge and Randall Lockwood concludes: "The abuse of animals is a common thread in the criminal histories of the United States' most notorious killers."

The second study, carried out on prisoners by psychologist Dr. Alan Felthaus, says: "Animal abuse could be the harbinger of even greater tragedies. Once an offender finds it is no longer excit-

ing or rewarding, the violence may escalate into crimes such as assault, rape or murder."

"It seems very likely that someone capable of hurting defenseless animals can do the same to a defenseless person, but we have no figures to back up that theory."

"Also, although we have plenty of violence towards animals, we haven't yet had a serial killer like those who feature in American studies, and there are plenty of cases of violent criminals with no such history," says Tel Aviv social worker Yona Elimelech.

She added, however, that she often sees cases of animal abuse in the same homes as child abuse or neglect.

CHAI chairwoman Nina Natelson says one of its results was an offer to start collecting local data on animal abuse which could be used by the IDF, police, schools and social services.



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Steady hand on the southern front

The fortified line that bore his name did not withstand the Egyptian attack in 1973, but Haim Bar-Lev helped the IDF turn the tide, Abraham Rabinovich writes

UNABLE to disclaim paternity of the fallen defense line that bore his name, Haim Bar-Lev, who died last week, may be remembered by shorthand writers of history for the wrong reason.

His long military career, from Palmah fighter to IDF chief of staff during Israel's War of Attrition — the longest and least remembered of Israel's wars — was an illustrious one, but his finest moment on the battlefield would come after his retirement.

He had already been a civilian for a year when the Yom Kippur War broke out. Within hours it became apparent that the strategic concept on which Israel had confidently based its security was deeply flawed. The Arabs had succeeded in simultaneously kicking open the front and back doors — on the Suez and the Golan — and were pouring through. Defense minister Moshe Dayan, hitherto a national icon, appeared on television with sweat on his forehead to inform the nation that it was facing a grave situation. To acquaintances he spoke of danger that the "Third Temple" would fall, an allusion to Israel's very existence.

It was in these circumstances that Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. David Elazar turned to his predecessor, Bar-Lev, who was serving as commerce minister. The two men had both grown up in Yugoslavia and were long-time comrades. Bar-Lev flew to Northern Command headquarters to assess the situation as Elazar's personal emissary.



Haim Bar-Lev's (center) finest moment on the battlefield came after his retirement as overall commander of the southern front during the Yom Kippur War. (D. Rubinger)

When he returned to General Staff Headquarters in Tel Aviv, he was asked by Elazar to undertake a critical operational assignment — overall command of the southern front.

The Egyptians had crossed the canal in strength, the Israeli forces were reeling and the command there was in disarray. Divisional commanders were arguing among themselves and balking at the orders of OC Southern Command, Gen. Shmuel Gonen. Under the new structure, Gonen would retain his title, but Bar-Lev, as Elazar's personal representative,

would have the ultimate authority.

Those who served under him then recall that Bar-Lev, who always spoke slowly, did not seem hurried, even during that period of intense stress.

"He came when there was a serious crisis of confidence between Gonen and the divisional commanders," Maj.-Gen. (res.) Avraham Adan (Bren), one of those divisional commanders, said this week. "He was cool and balanced. We had been thinking all the time

of when to counterattack. He came to my headquarters and said we're going to build up our strength and find the right moment. He gave the feeling that there was now order and judgment."

Historian Benny Morris credits Bar-Lev with a critical role in stabilizing the southern front.

"His major operational contribution was to hold back the generals led by [Ariel] Sharon who wanted to counterattack prematurely across the Suez Canal," says Morris, who is presently writing

a history of the Arab-Israeli confrontation.

Bar-Lev waited until the Egyptians had moved their armored divisions eastward across the canal and suffered heavy losses from the Israeli tanks which were waiting for them. It was he who presented the canal crossing plan to the high command and obtained approval.

"It was an extremely hazardous operation," notes Morris. "If he had said 'no,' they wouldn't have crossed."

HIS ABILITY to radiate steady-

ness even in the most trying of times had already been evident on the eve of the Six Day War, when, as deputy chief of staff, he helped assuage the anxiety that gripped even the government with a jaunty prediction of decisive victory over the Arab armies. "We'll hit them strong, fast and elegantly," he said.

His first major effort after succeeding Yitzhak Rabin as chief of staff, however, was somewhat less than elegant — an armored incursion against a Palestinian encampment at Karameh in Jordan, in

which the attacking force suffered unexpected losses. Bar-Lev also presided over the War of Attrition, in which Israel attempted, with daring commando raids and carefully measured air strikes, to bring an end to the pressure being exerted by the Arabs on Israel's expanded frontiers.

The Bar-Lev line, which grew out of that conflict, was an attempt to maintain a presence on the Suez Canal in the face of Egyptian shelling, by constructing a series of heavily fortified bunkers along the water's edge. The line served well enough during the War of Attrition but in the Yom Kippur War the Egyptian army went through it like a sieve.

Bar-Lev would argue afterwards that the line was virtually inoperative when the war broke out, since half the bunkers had been shut down and the tanks that were to have given them support were not in place. Even today, there are some experts who say Bar-Lev might have been right; but others contend that it was just as well that the line was not fully manned, since that would only have increased the casualty figure.

During his long service as a Knesset member and minister, he never won the defense portfolio to which he aspired. He decided not to run in the Labor Party primaries two years ago and was appointed ambassador to Russia in September 1992.

Uzi Narkiss was in a Palmah squad commanders' course with Bar-Lev in 1944 and participated in one of the first operations that he commanded, the attack on the Allenby Bridge on June 16, 1946. "It was perfectly planned and executed," said Narkiss. "Haim was one of the best field commanders we had."

After blowing up the bridge at night under fire from British soldiers and Jordanian frontier guards, the men withdrew without casualties to a waiting truck, which drove them to the Dead Sea. A boat carried them down the coast to a reedy area, where they hid all day while British search planes flew overhead. At night, they made their way on foot through the Judean Desert to Jerusalem.

Tamar Ma'arshak, a young woman from Kibbutz Ramat Rachel, was with the group. She later married Haim Bar-Lev and was with him when he died.

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Those entitled to assistance are new immigrants and returning minors who entered Israel after April 1, 1993, and who meet the Administration's criteria.

An experienced envoy gets an unconventional job

After stints in Mexico and Spain, Shmuel Hadas will be the country's first ambassador to the Vatican, Haim Shapiro reports

SHMUEL Hadas, former director-general of the Foreign Ministry, is about to undertake a job which involves unconventional diplomacy.

It is, in his words, "to be an ambassador from a small state to an even smaller state."

Some time between now and mid-July, Hadas is to present his credentials to Pope John Paul II and become Israel's first ambassador to the Holy See.

He regards the job as a challenge, but a very pleasant one. In an arena where words and symbols are of the utmost importance, the words are positive and the symbols point in the right direction.

In a recent interview with an American news magazine, the pope went further than ever before in supporting the legitimacy of the State of Israel.

"It must be understood that Jews, who for 2,000 years were dispersed among the nations of the world, had decided to return to the land of their ancestors. This is their right," Pope John Paul II was quoted as saying in an interview in *Parade*, a magazine distributed with Sunday newspapers throughout the US.

Hadas compares the words of the present pope with the response of Pope Pius X when he received Theodor Herzl in 1904. "We cannot encourage this movement. We cannot prevent the Jews from going to Jerusalem, but we can never encourage them.... The Jews have not recognized our lord; therefore we cannot recognize the Jewish people," Herzl quoted the pope as saying.

Hadas also refers to the recent concert on Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day at the Vatican, which was attended by more than 7,500 guests. He recalls that, in 1955, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra performed for the pope in what was described as a gesture of thanks to the Church for its role in saving Jews during the Holocaust.

The next day, *Osservatore Romano*, the official Vatican newspaper, reported that Jewish musicians from 14 countries had performed for the pope.



Hadas: It is clear the Vatican has changed its position on Jerusalem over the years. (Nissan Shorer)

NEXT MONTH, an exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls is to be shown in the Vatican Museum, in one of the main halls of the Vatican Library, following an agreement between the Vatican and the Department of Antiquities.

"What can speak more of the link between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel than these scrolls?" Hadas asks.

He refers obliquely to the contretemps that preceded his appointment, when Msgr. Claudio Maria Celli, the Vatican undersecretary for foreign affairs and the official who signed the recent agreement with Israel on behalf of the Holy See, was quoted as saying that the Vatican did not want a rabbi to be Israel's first ambassador to the Vatican.

Many observers here assumed that Rabbi David Rosen, who was chief rabbi of Ireland and director of interreligious affairs for the Anti-Defamation League, would be the natural choice for the position. Rosen was one of the experts brought in by the Religious Affairs Ministry to participate in the negotiations leading to the agreement.

"I believe that when the Foreign Ministry made up the idiom for an ambassador to the Vatican, a job with so many historical and sensitive implications, they felt they needed an experienced ambassador who could conduct a dialogue," says Hadas, who represented Israel in Spain when the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1986.

Hadas grew up in Argentina and served

in the largely Catholic Mexico as well as in Spain, and in his various postings has always been in contact with the Church hierarchy.

In fact, following the announcement of his impending appointment to the Holy See, the joint houses of parliament of his native Argentina unanimously conferred honorary citizenship on Hadas. (Diplomats here do not retain their former citizenship.)

Argentinian officials also decided to send a special delegation to the Vatican when he presents his credentials.

DESPITE THE fact that the Vatican apparently wanted an Israeli ambassador who was not a religious figure, there can be no clear distinction between diplomacy and theology when it comes to relations between the Jewish state and the head of the Catholic Church.

Hadas says that in an audience with the pope shortly after his appointment was made public, John Paul II told him that he hoped the agreement between the Vatican and the State of Israel would contribute to Jewish-Christian dialogue.

Hadas stresses the contribution made by Jews throughout the world, who have engaged in dialogue for decades with the Catholic Church. He acknowledges the contribution that this dialogue has made toward establishing diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See.

"The State of Israel, as such, is not involved in this dialogue," he says.

He admits, however, that Israel could make its position known on issues which it deems important to the Jewish people, such as the possible canonization of Queen Isabella of Spain, under whose rule the Jews were expelled.

"For us, that is almost a political issue," Hadas says with a laugh.

If Jews are perplexed by this distinction, so are Catholics. Msgr. Pier Francesco Fumagalli, rector of Jerusalem's Ratisbonne Institute which is devoted to teaching Catholics about Judaism, says that he is not sure where the line could be drawn separating the Jewish-Christian dialogue from Israel-Vatican relations.

Among the issues that remain unresolved between Israel and the Vatican is the status of Jerusalem.

In the past, the Vatican held that the city should be internationalized, but in recent months Vatican spokesmen have talked about "international guarantees" for the holy places.

"I don't want to interpret their position, but it is clear that they have changed over the years," Hadas says.

Israel's position is very clear, he adds. "Israel can promise free access to the holy places without any need for any guarantees in Jerusalem, its eternal capital."

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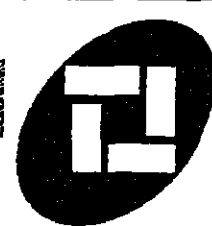
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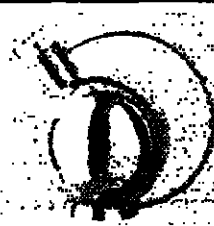
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Exhibitions

New Exhibitions
Alessi - For the Sake of Use
From 20.5
The Story of Masada
David Reeb:
Paintings 1982-1994
Modern Masters - The
Mizne-Blumental Collection
Gallery Talks in English:
Mon, Wed, 11 a.m.



Helena Rubinstein Pavilion
Chanan de Lange
Autobiographic Design

Music

Saturday, 14.5, 8.30 p.m.
Bach - Handel Vocal Series
J.S. Bach - Johannes
Passion. Subscription concert
Tuesday, 17.5, 8.30 p.m.
The Israel Sinfonietta
Beer Sheva. Gluck, Bach,
Constant, Haydn.
Children
Saturday, 14.5, 11.30 a.m.
Stepping Out of the Frame

Lectures

Friday, 13.5, 11.00 a.m.
Israeli Art from a New Viewpoint
Performances, Video Artists (Hebrew).
Thursday, 19.5, 9.00 p.m.
Guest Lecture: Andrew Renton,
art historian, Flash Art critic.
Lost Objects: A Perspective on
Contemporary Installations.
Saturday, 14.5, 11.00 a.m.
Saturday Magazine
With Maariv (Hebrew).

Friday, 20.5, 2.00 p.m.
Guest Lecture: Richard Sapper,
one of today's leading designers.
The Place of Design in Our Life.

Woman Sesame Oil Maker
(China 1992, colour, 106 mins.,
Mandarin, Hebrew/English
subtitles). Dir.: Xie Fei.

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Please note changes in hours:
Sundays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tues. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wed. Thurs. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART

Israel-bashing gets religious 'credibility' in UK

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

If there is one type of program from which attacks on Israel have been mostly excluded, it is broadcasts devoted to religion. To attack Israeli policies in discussions of faith would be so incongruous as to reek of a double standard.

One program always considered purely inspirational and strictly off limits for political polemics is *Thoughts for the Day*, a five-minute sermon on BBC.

But there seems to have been a change in policy. On May 6, Philip Crowe, principal of Salisbury Wells Theological College, had this to say: "I spent the whole of February in Israel/Palestine. Just 36 hours before the Hebron massacre, I was in the Tomb of the Patriarchs... I watched Jewish settlers praying in the mosque itself. For the first time for many, many generations, the Jews have the upper hand, a fact which is abundantly clear in the terms of the peace settlement..."

"The tragedy of the Jewish people in Israel is that they have so quickly become the oppressors. Naim Ateek is an Arab Christian whose village was stolen and destroyed by Jewish settlers. Naim Ateek writes, 'the challenge to all

people in this conflict in Israel/Palestine is: do not destroy your self with hate. Maintain your inner freedom. Insist on justice."

"As he is nailed to the cross, Jesus, the victim of injustice, has sufficient inner freedom to pray forgiveness for the soldiers. As he hangs, bound and helpless, Jesus, the oppressed, is free to offer hope to those crucified with him. As he is torn from his family and his friends, Jesus is free to give comfort to his mother. Among all the people on Golgotha, the one man who is truly free is the man who hangs, nailed and bound to the tree."

"Elias Shaker, a Palestinian Christian, was stopped by police at Ben-Gurion Airport and arrested. 'Mikki,' he said to a young policeman whose name he had politely enquired in Hebrew... 'you have known what it is to be oppressed and persecuted, but you have forgotten too quickly.' 'It is not good to be naive,' the policeman said, wrenching her eyes away from his gaze, but just before he had seen her tears."

The purpose of comparing Ateek with Jesus on the cross is not to canonize a Christian priest

from Nazareth (whose village was not "stolen by settlers" but abandoned in the War of Independence). It is to remind the listeners "who killed Christ."

And to end the sermonette with an obvious fabrication is to prove that Jew-bashing supersedes the commandment "Thou shalt not bear false witness."

It is impossible to imagine an Israeli policeman driven to tears by sanctimonious nonsense about oppression when searching passengers' luggage. Israelis working at Ben-Gurion Airport remember the policeman who was killed by a bomb hidden in a briefcase which she had the passenger open for inspection.

Nor can they forget the flights bombed by millions of another Palestinian Christian named George Habash, or the El Al flight in London saved by an alert security man who found a time bomb in the hand luggage of a PLO official's Irish girlfriend.

BUT FATHER Crowe's Israel-

bashing is easily surpassed in what is perhaps the most sophisticated and subtle antisemitic instrument masquerading as a religious message.

It is a prayer book recently published by Christian Aid, the official agency of 41 British and Irish churches, an organization which claims to be "a major relief and development agency, committed to strengthening the poor... in more than 70 countries."

The prayer book, called *Companions of God - Praying for Peace in the Holy Land*, claims to "help you not only to follow in the steps of Jesus, but to 'pray with your eyes open' for a just and lasting peace in the land where he [sic] walked."

At least one reader, Sheila Brull, who brought the book to my attention, was puzzled by the "facts" interspersed with the prayers. Indeed, they are as related to prayer, peace and justice as the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* are related to history.

A few examples: A picture of an

ancient olive tree in the garden of Gethsemane is captioned with: "During the period of the intifada, olive groves were often uprooted by the army for security purposes and replanted by Palestinians as an act of resistance."

Following a prayer - "O God... As Mary returned to mourn yet found unspeakable joy, so comfort all who have lost their homes through persecution, war, exile or deliberate destruction..." - there is a photograph of a demolished home with the caption: "The homes of suspected or convicted Palestinian activists have been regularly demolished by the Israeli military 'for security purposes'... It is a practice of 'collective punishment' forbidden by the Geneva convention."

Like *Time* and *Newsweek*, this "prayer book for pilgrims" could not resist the classic "Israeli occupation photograph." An Arab farmer (dressed, as is common in these pictures, in clothes straight out of The Gap and sporting Adidas shoes) walks behind a horse-

drawn plow, "near the Jewish settlement of Efrat built on his land."

To reinforce this canard, there is an explanation next to the caption: "These towns have been built on Arab land and they are a major obstacle in negotiating a final peace agreement."

Now, how can you pray intelligently if you are not brainwashed into believing that land was confiscated from Arabs to build settlements?

The pacing of the lies, prevarications, half truths and inventions is at the rate of every three pages or so of the 70 pages. And the inventions become bolder as one progresses from one "intelligent prayer" to another. Arab farmers have "been pushed to the least productive areas... Palestinian water supplies have been restricted... Access to medical care is poorer for Arabs than it is for Jews... The intifada... included strikes, non-payment of taxes and other non-violent acts of civil disobedience, along with stone-throwing and more violent tactics like the burning of cars..." How 950 Arabs and almost 200 Jews have died from such harmless tactics is a puzzle this book of faith

never quite explains.

But the Christian Aid propagandists are too sophisticated to include only prevarications about Israeli brutality. To make an impression of even-handedness they open the book with a "Jewish saying": "who brings about peace is called the companion of God in the work of creation"; they quote Yehuda Amichai and David Grossman; urge Christians to visit Yad Vashem; and among the 50 or so photographs they include a few of Jews: "Women in Black," settlers dancing, and Jews praying at the Wall.

But only those suffering from terminal gullibility can fail to see the purpose of this con job. Perhaps the most instructive sample is a prayer printed over a picture of "a sunset over the plain of Jezreel seen from Mount Tabor, possible site of Jesus' transfiguration." The prayer says: "...the valley there, Jezreel, its sheen of beauty biblical in scope, was once a name of blood, like Auschwitz, like Shatila."

Israelis may want to know that Christian Aid is a major contributor to B'tselem, the Israeli Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

Of 'Prophetic Judaism'

VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

THE Tora comprises five sections called in Hebrew *Hamishah Humshey Tora* (The Five Fiftths of the Tora).

The English designation is Pentateuch, from the Greek *pentateuchos* - *pentateuchos*, *teuchos* tool, book, via the Latin *pentateuchus*.

Some scholars speak of a Hexateuch (Six-Book Tora), including the Book of Joshua. There is even a suggestion of a Heptateuch (Seven-Book Tora). The seventh "book" is the somewhat cryptic segment in Numbers 10:35-36, which mysteriously appears between two inverted Hebrew letters *nun*:

"And when the Ark [of the Covenant] traveled, Moses said: 'Rise up, O God, and let your enemies be scattered; and let those who hate you flee from you.' And when it rested he said: 'Return [or: Give rest], O God, to the myriads of the families [or: thousands] of Israel.'"

Both suggestions appear in classical Jewish sources.

Rabbi Ada tells us in Rabbi Hanina's name: If the Jewish people had remained in Eretz Yisrael, we would have been given only the five books of the Tora and the Book of Joshua.

Why Joshua? Because it tells of the fulfillment of our taking possession of Eretz Yisrael and its appointment by Joshua among the tribes.

We know that we got the Prophets only because of our sins from Ecclesiastes 1:18 (translated freely in accordance with its application here): "Latent in that great wisdom [the Prophets] is great anger [God's] against us or our sins."

Rabbi Ada concludes: We know that Joshua may enjoy "Tora" status from the passage (Joshua 24:26): "And Joshua wrote these words in the book of God's *torah*." (*Nedarim* 22b).

To be sure, if not for our misconduct, the Prophets would not have had to speak all those beautiful, ringing words about the consequences of our wickedness and folly and about the glorious future in store for us and all humanity when the Redemption comes.

THERE IS an important message here for the devotees of "Prophetic Judaism."

Many "Prophetic Judaists" have no room in their lives or thoughts for Jewish nationhood,

and most shun Jewish ritual observance and the Jewish calendar. The Jewishness of their lives is one that, at best, has been diluted to resemble liberal Protestantism minus Jesus; some do not even exclude him.

From the Prophets they single out passages containing beautiful poetry or "universal" ethical/moral messages, to the virtual exclusion of purely "religious" or "nationalistic" passages.

Indeed, the Prophets are replete with beautiful poetry and messages. Here is a tiny sampling:

• Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3: "...They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks..."

• Jeremiah 22:13: "Woe betide him who builds his house by unjust means and completes its roof-chambers by fraud, employing his fellow without paying him..."

• Ezekiel 18:5-9: "He who would be righteous... harnesses an ox... shares his food with the hungry... never lends money at discount interest. He shuns injustice and deals honestly and fairly with people..."

• Amos 5:14-24: "Seek good and not evil... Hate evil and love good;... Let justice roll on like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream..."

• Micah 2:1: "Woe betide those who lie in bed planning evil deeds and rise at dawn to do them..."

• Habakkuk 2:9: "Woe betide him who seeks ill-gotten gain for his house..."

• Malachi 2:10: "Have we not all one father? Did not one God create us? Why [are we] faithless to one another?"

BUT THOSE Prophets were also nationalists, passionate Jewish patriots. Here is a tiny sampling of that trend:

• Isaiah 41:8-11, 65:19: "But you, Israel My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen... all who set themselves against you shall vanish... I will take delight in Jerusalem and rejoice in My people..."

• Jeremiah 16:14-15: "...the time is coming when people shall swear... By the life of God who brought Israel back from a northern land and from all the lands to which He banished them;... to

the soil that [God] gave their forefathers."

• Ezekiel 37:21-26: "I [God] am gathering up the Children of Israel from... everywhere, and [will] restore them to their own soil. I will make them a single nation in the Land, on the mountains of Israel... They shall live in the land where your ancestors lived... They and their descendants shall live there forever..."

• Joel 4:1-2: "I will gather all the nations together... and... bring them to judgment on behalf of Israel My people and possession whom they scattered among the nations, partitioning My own land among themselves..."

• Micah 4:6-7: "On that day, says God, I will gather... the exiles... and turn the derelict into a mighty nation."

THEY WERE also ritualists. Another tiny sampling:

• Isaiah 58:13: "...cease trampling the Shabbat, keep My holy day free from your affairs..."

• Ezekiel 20:20: "You must keep My Sabbaths holy..."

Various Prophets also rail against the eating of swine flesh. All of them spare no words or grisly images in denouncing idolatry and violations of the basic Jewish principles concerning family life and sexual morality.

In general, they all roundly condemn our failure, especially of the priests and judges, to distinguish between the holy - which includes observing the ethical/moral precepts - and the profane.

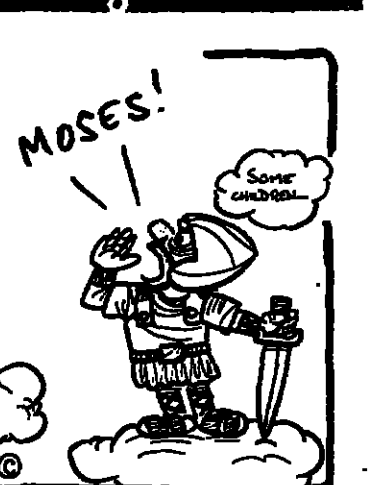
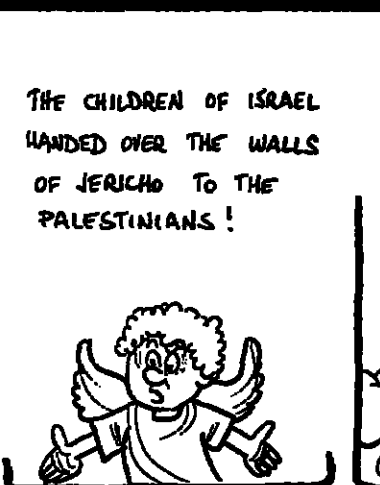
AS FOR the Tora itself, it, too, is not merely "The Law," as most Christians and some Jews call it.

The word itself means instruction, direction, teaching. In addition to hundreds of "ritual," business and criminal laws, various groups of which are binding on particular groups at different times, it contains scores of ethical/moral laws binding at all times on all Jews and all others living under Jewish governance. There are also countless beautiful passages, including two that many people are still astonished to learn were not originally spoken by Jesus:

"Love your fellow as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18) and "Man does not live by bread alone" (Deuteronomy 8:3).

A SUCCESSFUL and happy Shavuot holiday.

SRULIK



Lesson from Ruth: Become a Jew by choice

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

DURING a period of great uncertainty and concern, formidable risk and questionable opportunity for the State of Israel, it is crucial to recognize the significance of our homeland.

It is especially timely to do so on Shavuot, the festival of first fruits, when Jewish farmers brought their most-cherished produce to the Holy Temple, and the presentation speech gratefully acknowledges that "[the Lord] brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey." (Deut. 26:9)

The Scroll of Ruth, the biblical reading for the festival, opens with economic difficulty - a famine - in Judea, which causes Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and his sons Mahlon and Chilion to leave their home of Bethlehem (lit. the house of bread) for the seemingly greener pastures of Moab. As in the case of the Patriarch Abraham, who similarly left Israel for Egypt because of famine, disaster strikes, the lesson being that if it is difficult for Jews to survive in Israel - our own homeland - it will be far more difficult to survive in exile.

In a scene remarkably reminiscent of our contemporary Diaspora, both sons marry Moabite women, and a once-proud Israelite family seems doomed to gentle grandchildren.

Shavuot, the festival that celebrates the Revelation at Sinai, understandably emphasizes the most insidious dangers of exile: assimilation and intermarriage, the

death-knell of our historical tradition.

Newborn commitment is the only antidote; and so Ruth, the Moabite daughter-in-law who chooses to cling to her Israeli mother-in-law and convert to her faith, saves the family and secures the future of our nation. Most instructive is the language of her conversion, the biblical definition of commitment:

"Where you shall walk, there I shall walk (*halacha*, lit. a life-style commitment), and where you shall lodge, there I shall lodge [a 24-hour-a-day commitment], your nation shall be my nation [a nationalistic commitment] and your God shall be my God [a theological commitment]." (Ruth 1:16)

When we remember that this statement was made in response to Naomi's decision to return to her homeland alone, the paramount importance of the Land of Israel for Jewish survival is revealed as the essence of Ruth's pledge. She will continue to dwell (walking and lodging) with Israel's God and Naomi in the Land of Israel.

Indeed, Boaz, the Israeli kinsman, compliments this woman "who has left your father and your mother and the land of your birth and went to a nation you did not know yesterday and the day before" (Ruth 2:11) - words echoing the divine charge to Abraham to

found a nation/religion: "Get thee forth from thy land, thy birthplace and thy father's house to the land which I will show thee." (Gen. 12:1)

From this perspective, the continuation of Ruth's story completes the circle: Boaz redeems the family property, Naomi and Ruth assume their rightful place in the Land and then - and only then - the father of David, progenitor of the Messiah, symbol of Israel's destiny, can be born.

WHEN I was growing up, there were six million Jews in America, a comforting statistic. Given the natural Jewish birthrate and post-WWII immigration, four decades later the number should have doubled. But alas, whether we admit it publicly or not, Diaspora Jewry - particularly in America - is at a crossroads.

Instead of 12 million American Jews, today's statistics speak of 5.5 million, and this includes 1½ million who describe themselves as being merely Jewish. Only two million belong to any kind of Jewish organization. frighteningly distant even from Mordechai Kaplan's three "Bs" of Jewishness: behaving, believing and belonging. Is it any wonder that the intermarriage rate is 52 percent and climbing?

And intermarriage (the term

ought to be mixed-marriage) is not so much a cause for Jewish decline as it is a symptom of a Jewish disease - ignorance of and apathy concerning our Jewish heritage and traditions.

Many Jewish sociologists point to the Scroll of Ruth, read on Shavuot, as a guidepost for our troubled times. Who says that mixed marriages will lead to more Jews opting out? Perhaps it will enable more Gentiles to count themselves in? Was not Ruth the prototypical convert, a Moabite woman who married a Jew from Israel and eventually became grandmother to King David?

However, Ruth's conversion was not tied to her marriage; she converted only after her first husband had died impoverished.

The door that Ruth opened is the door through which every one of us, including Jews from birth, must pass. It is the doorway of commitment.

Mordechai Kaplan was right when he defined Judaism as a civilization, with its own unique land, language and literature, with its specific days of celebration and mourning, eating habits and rites of passage. Only if we expose our youth to this great civilization will we give them the opportunity to choose it for their own.

We must launch an Exodus from Assimilation. We must learn from Ruth that the key to Jewish survival lies in commitment; we must all become Jews by choice.

Shabbat Shalom and Hag Sameah

Summer can be fun for disadvantaged children

FUNDS

BEVERLEE BLACK

IT'S a fact. The Toy Fund coffers are almost empty. Thousands of children in distressed neighborhoods have nothing to do during the long summer vacation.

We aim to send as many of them as we can to summer day camps for a month. Just as you helped in previous years, we ask you to pitch in again and make this a happy, fun-filled vacation for them.

Don't forget, the Forsake Me Not Fund and the Welcome Home Fund need your help as well.

Please give generously; summer is almost here. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

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NIS 250 Mayankar, Barykhat, Dima.
NIS 200 Anonymous, J'm.
NIS 100.20 Proceeds of a raffle held at The Spanish and Portuguese Congregation in Jerusalem's Park Partin. (6 times Ha) in honor of the birth of my grandchild, on April 17, 1994, Sarah Marcelle Gordin, daughter to Esther and Paul, sister to David and Benjamin, and granddaughters Ely and Jay.
NIS 100 in honor of the 50th birthday of my dear friend, David Gordin, (6 times Ha) in honor of the birth of my grandchild, on April 17, 1994, Sarah Marcelle Gordin, daughter to Esther and Paul, sister to David and Benjamin, and granddaughters Ely and Jay.
NIS 100 in honor of Rachel Lisogorski, on

the occasion of the birth of her first grandchild, Eitan Avraham Manor - Chana and Menashe Broder, Tel Aviv. In loving memory of Isaac Rosenberg - Grit and Marc Zandman, Holon. In honor of our beloved brother Yehoshua, forever in our hearts - Mrs. L. A. Firestone, Ramat Gan. In memory of my beloved grandfather, Alex Labranchsky who died on May 4, 1991 - his grandson Anthony, Kfar Blum (formerly of London). In memory of my father, in memory of my beloved husband, Maury, the 9th Pesach without him and our parents killed in the Shtet. Rabe and Aniel Osher and Lee and Max Samet - Selma Osher, Tel Aviv. Anon., Ramat Hashayal.

NIS 45 In memory of Rabbi Israel Egon Lowenstein - Ruth and Max Friedlander, J'm.

NIS 30 Happy Birthday to Elie Obermayer - Lila.

NIS 5 Mr. and Mrs. S. Rosenstein, Netanya.

\$100 Kiny Leibovitch, Switzerland, Herman Rosnick, Miami Beach, FL.

\$50 In honor of our dear friend Dr. Harold and Dorothy Rockstein's 50th wedding anniversary - Louis and Mona Sherman, Eugene, OR.

\$35 In memory of Elizabeth Eckhart - Sylvia Warner, Campo, CA.

\$25 Donald Stanley, Princeton, WV.

\$15 In honor of the marriage of our grand-daughter Ilana Bracha to Adam Chai - Tobie and Bill Wiener, Woodmere, NY and Jerusalem.

\$15 Virginia Randall, Scottsdale, AZ.

\$10 In loving memory of Blanka Bloch - Audrey, Wayne and Daniel Khaman, Santa Barbara, CA.

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NIS 500 In memory of Marcia Krezmer - Jeffrey and Judith Green, J'm.

NIS 260 Ellen Tov, Tel Aviv.

NIS 100 In honor of Rachel Lisogorski, on the occasion of the birth of her first grandchild, Eitan Avraham Manor - Chana and Menashe Broder, Tel Aviv. Louisa Gerber, Ramat Gan. In memory of Marcia - Judy, J'm.

NIS 50 Anon., Ramat Hashayal.

\$100 Pastor Ellen Blackwell, "A Way of Faith" Assembly of God, Fairfax, VA.

\$40 Henry and Mrs. Suzanne Bicht, Palm Springs, CA.

\$25 Donald Stanley, Princeton, WV. In honor of the bat mitzva of Hannah Ascher-Wise - Cyrille White, Thomaston, ME.

\$30 In memory of our parents, Herzl and Penina Rosengarten and Hermann and Emma Friedlander - Marys and Ruth Rosengarten, Dumont, NJ.

\$15 In honor of the bat mitzva of our grand-daughter, Rachel Yetta Wiener - Tobie and Bill Wiener, Woodmere, NY and Jerusalem.

In honor of the birth of our niece, Ayela Nechama Plimlich of Richmond, VA - Naomi Markovitz, Jerusalem and Josh Markovitz of Safed.

\$50 In loving memory of our son, Richard Tinschky, who would have been 50 years old on March 6 - John Brockis Family, Halstead, England.

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Hoteliers build on expected 'peace boom' in tourism

Construction and planning are in full swing to make room for many more tourists, Haim Shapiro reports

THE country's hoteliers have shown their faith in the peace agreement with the PLO by embarking on an unprecedented spree in hotel takeovers, planning and construction.

The spree began at the start of the year and shows every sign of continuing.

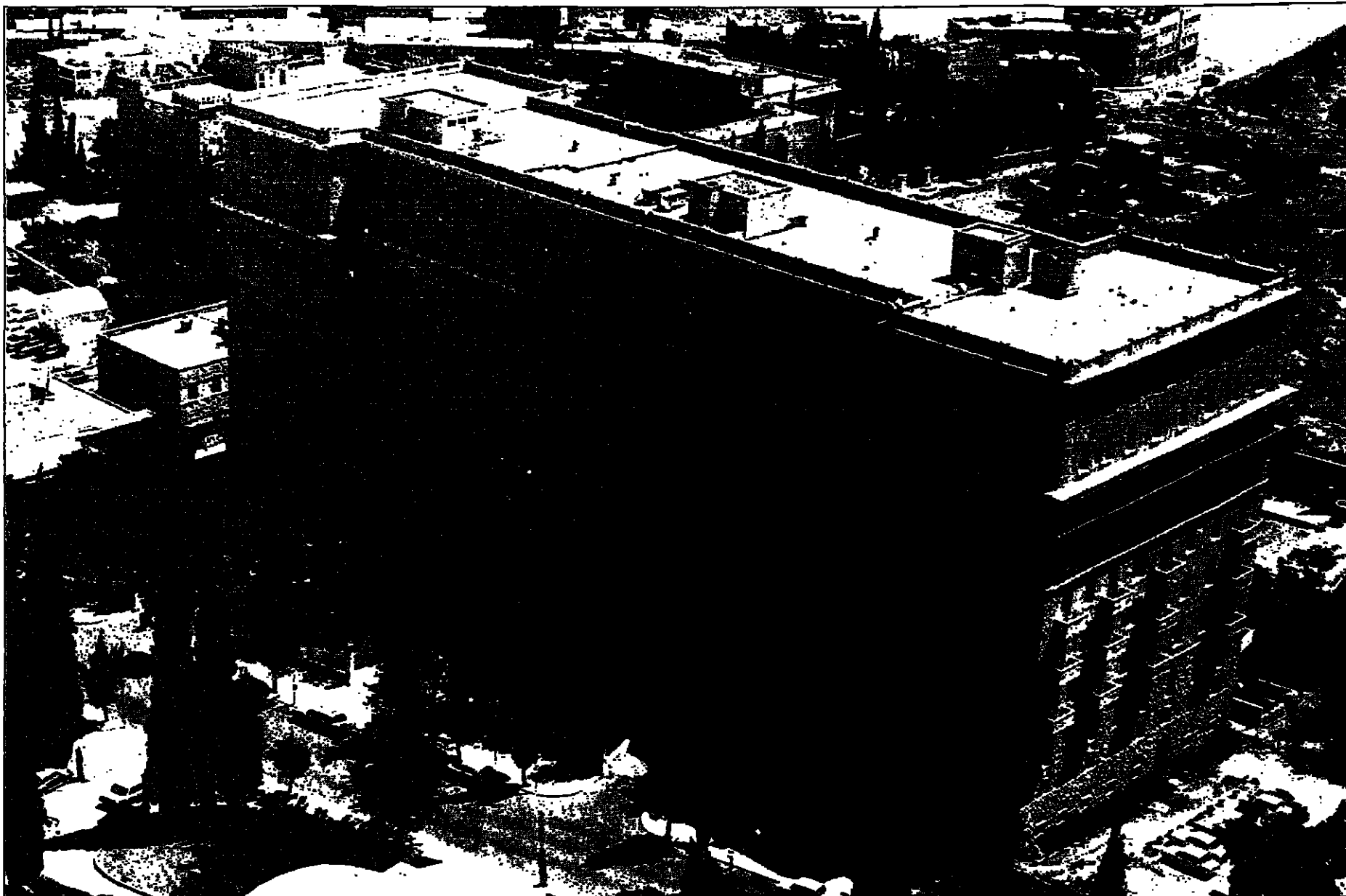
"I believe in peace," says Yitzhak Teshuva, a real-estate entrepreneur who entered the hotel business only two years ago and is now planning a series of hotels and tourist enterprises throughout the country. "I believe there will be real peace soon, and Israel will be among the strongest tourism countries in the world."

The Dan Hotel chain, which, with about 2,000 rooms, is the country's largest, is planning to add to the venerable King David in Jerusalem. It is also building a hotel in Eilat which will have more than 400 rooms, and will take over the management of the Pinaat Dan, which is being built in the capital near Jaffa Gate.

The Moriah chain, which has some 1,800 rooms, is planning a third hotel alongside the Dead Sea. It also recently acquired three hotels from Kupat Holim in Ma'alot, Nazareth and Zichron Ya'acov.

Moriah general manager Yair Youtzits says there has been a hunt on for hotels all over the country since the signing of the Oslo pact in Washington last September.

"We took over the three hotels before the hunt began," Youtzits



An addition to Jerusalem's King David Hotel is just one of the projects in the works for the anticipated tourism boom. (David Rubinger)

says with satisfaction.

Isrotel, which has 1,600 rooms, is building a new hotel in Eilat, the Royal Beach. The Caesar chain is planning to double its 550 rooms by building a hotel along the Dead Sea and adding rooms to its hotels in Eilat, Jerusalem and Tiberias. The international Holiday Inn chain, which had no hotels in Israel until two years ago, now has six in partnership with the Africa-Israel concern.

Israel Hotel Association director Avraham Rosental says Holiday Inn's entry into the local market signals the beginning of a trend by other international chains which had previously stayed out of Israel.

He says the French Accor chain, which specializes in popularly priced hotels, also plans to come here.

There are also reports that such real-estate and construction firms

as Koor, Mario Lesnik and Uri Ofer are contemplating hotel and tourism projects.

They are following the lead of Teshuva, whose Paradise chain now has four hotels with a total of some 600 rooms. The chain talks of having 3,000 rooms within a few years and some 6,000 by the year 2000.

"We have all the plans ready," Teshuva says. "All we need to do is build."

According to the Hotel Association, there are some 32,500 hotel rooms throughout the country, with expected increases of 1,400 rooms this year and 2,100 in 1995, bringing the total number to 36,000.

Rosental says this is not too many. Even with periodic slumps in tourism caused by war, terrorism and the intifada, the general trend has been an annual 10 percent in-

crease in the number of tourists, Rosental says.

Those in the tourism business were expecting a bumper year in 1994, but that was before the Hebron massacre and subsequent terror attacks. In fact, the first quarter showed a 13% increase from the same period last year in tourist bed nights.

Rosental says there has been a slump following the violence, but it is not a drastic one. "It won't be

the peak year we thought it would be, but there will still be an upward trend," he says.

Hotels here have an annual occupancy rate of 69%, according to Hotel Association figures.

Rosental, who calls this a good figure, says it includes some destinations which have higher occupancy rates and the high season, when there is a generally higher occupancy rate.

He says Israel is lucky to have several high seasons, including Pessah, Easter (which in a "good" year fall on separate dates), Christmas and Rosh Hashana. In Eilat, the high season runs from October through April.

He says it takes three to four years to get from the planning stage to a completed hotel room. Thus, if the coming years are expected to be peaceful, with a concomitant increase in tourism, the time to start building the hotel rooms is now.

The average cost of building a hotel room is between \$100,000 and \$120,000, he says. He is not concerned about the entrepreneurs who are investing in new hotels.

"They are not going to build hotels in which people won't stay," he says.

He admits that even peace could have its economic disadvantages.

At present, the average tourist spends 12 days here and an average of \$1,055. This is second only to the US, where the average expenditure per tourist is \$1,077.

If the borders were open, Rosental admits, tourists might actually spend less time here and take the opportunity to also see the neighboring countries, thus decreasing the average tourist expenditure.

On the other hand, he says, if that kind of situation emerges, the overall increase in the number of tourists would probably be so large as to offset this.

There are some eight million tourists a year to the area, which includes Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. They leave about \$5 billion in the region.

"I believe that after five years of peace there will be 20 million tourists who spend \$15b," Rosental says.

Mogul focuses on enlarging video-rental empire

Blockbuster's huge price tag seems to have dissuaded potential buyers from committing themselves

WOULD you buy a used strategy from Blockbuster entertainment chairman Wayne Huizenga?

He is apparently about to find out.

With the Viacom Inc. merger in ruins, people close to the US Blockbuster chain do not foresee another major alliance in the near term.

Instead, they look to Huizenga to refocus on building his worldwide video rental empire, while continuing to diversify into sports and entertainment.

One well-placed source says all the available suitors have already taken a look at the company and backed off, despite rumored deals involving Walt Disney Co. or one of the Baby Bells.

While access to Blockbuster's cash flow and control of the video rental business are strong lures, the company's \$8b.-\$9b. price tag appears to be a turnoff.

"What's attracted people to them is their cash flow, which will grow very rapidly over the next four or five years," said one Wall Street source. "Another thing that draws people to them is the idea of control [of the video rental business]. In retailing, that kind of control is like a siren call. But it's a very expensive merger."

Rumors of other partnerships began surfacing earlier this month, when it became clear that the Viacom deal was in serious trouble. The two companies technically have until September 30 to

make the marriage work.

But with Viacom's stock still reeling from the impact of its \$10b. purchase of Paramount Communications, hardly anyone expects the deal to go through.

Analysts say Blockbuster is more likely to recoup some of its \$1.85b. Viacom investment, which was critical in helping Viacom defeat rival QVC Inc. in the battle for Paramount, through small ventures.

There's talk of turning Viacom's Showtime pay-TV network into the "Blockbuster Network," and distributing Viacom video games through the retailer.

Blockbuster declined comment on its plans, with one company source saying: "Only Wayne knows what will happen." But CFO Gregory Fairbanks denied that its annual cash flow—estimated at \$650m.—\$700m. and growing—would be significantly drained.

The \$600m. in Viacom preferred stock that it bought is pretty much a wash since it pays a dividend of about \$30m. a year, offsetting payments for debt borrowed to buy the stock, Fairbanks said.

The \$1.25b. borrowed to buy 23 million shares of Viacom Class B common stock does drain some money off in interest, although Fairbanks claimed it's not enough to hurt the company's plans.

"Even with the investment in Viacom, we have the financial resources and cash flow available that would be necessary to finance all of our growth plans as a stand-alone entity," Fairbanks said.

That would include such things as building new video stores, financing its growing film and television production activity and making acquisitions.

Craig Bibb, an analyst with

PaineWebber Inc., estimates it will cost Blockbuster about \$88m. to service the debt taken on to buy the \$1.25b. in Viacom shares, which should not be a problem since cash flow has been growing at a strong 30 percent a year.

He agrees that the investment should not hinder its rapid expansion.

"The extra debt they need to carry for the Viacom securities is not going to slow them down at all," Bibb said. "They still will open all the stores they plan to."

While Blockbuster's stock may take some time to recover—its shares sank to 25 [on the New York Stock Exchange this week] compared to a peak last year of 34 a share—Bibb says he likes the stock's growth potential.

He predicts Blockbuster will return to the strategy of building a diversified family entertainment company.

The company was already on a diversification drive when Viacom came along, having acquired Music Plus and controlling the newly merged Spelling Entertainment and Republic Pictures.

With the Florida Marlins baseball team, the Florida Panthers hockey team and as the new outright owner of the Miami Dolphins, Huizenga is one of the nation's top sports moguls.

Some analysts say that Blockbuster will remain a force to be reckoned with.

"They want a vehicle to leverage their distribution strength," Bibb said. "They are the largest buyer of Hollywood product on the planet."

He speculated that one of the possibilities could involve buying exclusive video rights for Blockbuster stores.

The company is also known to be pursuing deals to co-finance movies with leading producers.

But Hollywood executives say the company's long-term future is hard to project. While Huizenga has consistently denied that movies-on-demand pose a near-term threat to his business, some contend he undercut his position by agreeing to the Viacom deal.

(Los Angeles Times)

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Summer Tourism, 1994

At the end of May, The Jerusalem Post will publish a special color section devoted to tourism, featuring summer holiday possibilities in Israel and abroad. The section will contain articles, pictures and advertising.

For more information and to advertise in this section, please call Udi Bash, 03-6390333, Fax: 03-6390277.

Knights of the square table

IT is now generally accepted that modern chess evolved from earlier games, and some experts think that it might even share common ancestry with tarot. Both games began as a form of ancient fortune telling in which stones were cast on the ground in order to gauge the forces which controlled man's destiny.

With tarot this has remained a random process; our fate is in the lap of the gods, the cards are drawn by chance. But with chess we see the dawning of an awareness that what happens to us. We use our reason and logic to move the pieces as best we can against an unseen enemy which tries to block our every move.

The "chess player" will not curse the gods for a bad day's hunting but instead set about discovering ways to establish a more secure source of food, perhaps by rearing cattle or planting crops. When the cattle get ill he looks for a cure; when the crops are destroyed by rain he looks for better methods of irrigation. Thus chess can be seen as a symbol of man's fundamental existential struggles, perhaps not only with his environment but also with himself.

The different forms of chess have different powers for the pieces, but rooks and knights seem common to almost every type. One might expect the horizontal and vertical move of the rook to have a universal appeal, but the idiosyncratic move of the knight is more of a mystery. It averts neither the ranks and files nor the diagonals, but has a peculiar side-step which is the most difficult move for beginners to grasp.

As a schoolboy I spent most of my math lessons doing the famous uzzle the "knight tour" in the ack of my exercise book; you ave to move the knight around very square of a chessboard with-

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

out stepping on any of them twice. Naturally I got into trouble when the teacher discovered dozens of these 8x8 graphs filled with the numbers 1 to 64, but it did help a lot with mastery of this strange move.

I suspect that Lothar Schmid had similar problems with his math teacher as a boy. As evidence witness the following remarkable game in which the knights dance around in pagan fashion. It was played in Bad Pyrmont in 1949.

Bogoljubov, E. - Schmid, L.
Scotch Four Knights
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Nxe4!

A quite shocking move which initiates a series of fantastic maneuvers. After 6.Nxe4 Black recovers his piece with 6...Qe7, but perhaps White should allow this and then play 7.Nb5 Qxe4+ 8.Be2 Kd8 9.0-0 with compensation for the lost pawn.

6.Nxe4 Nxc3 7.Nxd8 Nxd1 8.Nxf7 Nxf7 9.Nxb8 Nxb1

It is quite surprising that this game was actually played by two strong players. It looks more like a five-minute game from the Lasker Club on Rehov Hayarkon.

10.Bd3 Be5 11.Bxb7 N2 12.Bf4 d6 13.Bg6+ Kf8 14.Bg3 Ng4 15.Nf7? A serious error of judgment. White should extricate his knight by 15.Bd3 followed by 16.Ng5+ with a likely draw in prospect.

15...Nc3 16.Kd2 Bf5!

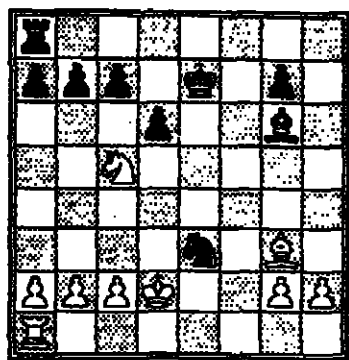
Seizing his opportunity. If 17.Bxf5 Nxf5 18.Ng5 Be3+ wins a piece.

17.Ng5 Bxg6 18.Ne6+ Ke7 19.Nxc5

White was probably expecting 19...dxc5 20.Kxc3 with equality, but instead there comes a further surprise (see diagram).

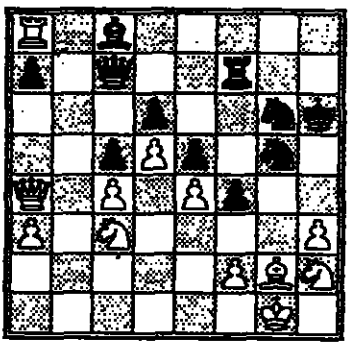
19...Nxc2! 20.Bh4+ Ke8 21.Ne6 Kd7 22.Nf4 Nxa1 23.Nxg6 Re8 24.Bf2 Nc2 25.Nf4 Nb4 0-1

In this week's problem there is some lively knight play from one of my own games. Larsen - Da-



vies, Hastings 1987-88. From the position in the diagram I played 1...B! 2.Nb5 Qe7! 3.Rxa7 and then I found a killing move for Black. What was it?

IN LAST week's problem (Mat-



veeva - Stefanova) White won with 1.Qxe6! after which 1...Qxe6 was answered by 2.Bf4 mate. Black therefore resigned.

Editor's note: The diagrams for the April 29 column were inadvertently switched with those of the May 6 column.



Every part of the castor-bean plant is poisonous, but the seeds, which grow in pods, are especially toxic. (Karen Benzman)

Fatal attractions in the garden

GARDENING

INEZ KLJIMIST

PLANTS and trees are not just a source of natural foods and medicines; they bear more than the ingredients necessary for life. Flora can be deadly.

One of the deadliest is the oleander, commonly found in parks and gardens all over the country. It has leathery leaves and showy flowers in white, pink and red. Some years ago, I read a cautionary tale about this plant. A woman in California invited friends to a barbecue. Having run out of skewers, she cut straight sticks from her oleander bushes and peeled the sticks carefully, exposing the sap. She killed several of her guests and landed others in the hospital.

If ingested, a single oleander leaf has enough poison to kill an adult, and a flower's nectar can kill a child. Severe poisoning can result from using the wood on a cooking fire, and even inhaling the smoke can make you very ill. Contact with the leaves can cause dermatitis in sensitive individuals. How is that for starters?

When you hike, you may find an almond tree bearing fruit, and be tempted to eat some. Don't. The sweet almond is wonderful, but the bitter almond is very toxic and only a trained botanist can tell the difference.

The castor-bean plant (*kikayon* in Hebrew) grows as a perennial herb and reaches a height of 2 meters. It is grown as an ornamental in parks and gardens, but grows in large thickets in the wild.

The entire plant is very toxic, especially the seeds. The seed pods look very pretty when dried, but never use them as beads for a necklace. They can cause dermatitis, and if swallowed can cause severe burning of the throat and mouth, stomach pains and, sometimes, death.

An entire class of plants called euphorbia grows here. They were introduced from the West Indies, and include the lovely candelabra cactus and the pencil cactus - not really cacti - found so commonly in the area of Arad. They are easy to identify even though they come in all sizes and shapes. When a euphorbia is injured, it bleeds a white, milky, sticky substance. The entire plant is poisonous, but the sap is especially so, causing chemical burns and temporary blindness if it gets into the eyes.

I need say little about cacti as a group. If cactus spines stick in the

skin, remove them carefully and thoroughly. The spines of some varieties contain mild toxins, and all carry dust which can cause infection. Treat it like a small splinter, using a sterilized needle. Treat the injury with an antibiotic ointment.

Chinaberry (*Melia azadirach*) trees grow in the wild, but their pretty flowers are planted in gardens. Most poisonings are among children, who find the fruits on the ground under the tree in autumn. Children find them fun to play with and will get sap on their fingers, eat without washing their hands, or put berries and fingers in their mouths. The ground berries are used to make insecticide and flea powder. Need I say more?

Peaches, apples, apricots and plums contain sizable amounts of cyanide in their seeds. But they are not usually eaten in large enough

amounts to do much damage in humans. The classic exception cited by botanical literature is that of a man who liked apple seeds so much he saved a cupful and ate them all at once, with fatal results. Two or three peach seeds can cause a stomach ache or vomiting.

Stinging nettles grow everywhere, in the wild as well as rampant in the garden. Save yourself a nasty chemical burn which can itch for days by wearing gloves while weeding.

In the house you will find Dieffenbachia (dumb cane), pothos, as well as spath lily and other members of the arum lily family. All parts of these plants are poisonous, especially the stems. Keep them up high, away from young children, as even a small taste will cause severe swelling in the mouth and throat, often for a week or more.

Get out of the habit of putting a stem of grass or a flower in your mouth when you hike, and do not eat anything you find unless you are absolutely sure you know what it is. Better safe than sorry.

Play the cards you're dealt

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVEITER

Vest dealer
North-South vulnerable
0 under the line

North
K42
A14
K
AKJ1075

West
Lavi
75
K3
AJ10976
Q82

East
Brenning
AJ109
Q1087
Q32
943

South
Q863
Q9652
854

Lavi West
30
(all pass)

Brenning South
40
40

EVERY year around Shavuot I start wondering whether contract bridge is a game copied from the Five Books of Moses.

The idea of bidding for a contract and trying to fulfill it seems so similar to the Jewish People receiving their freedom in return for acceptance of the Torah - a contract that we are still haggling over to this day.

Contract bridge was invented by Harold Vanderbilt during a cruise on his boat in 1925. The boat didn't go down, so bridge was probably destined to become a popular pastime. Today there are bridge fanatics who make the game their "religion." They discuss it like Talmudists, each bid and card debated and decoded in postmortem arguments.

So far I have yet to meet a rabbi here who plays bridge. In America quite a few rabbis, and many members of the clergy of other religions, enjoy the game.

The most famous religious bridge player was probably Mahatma Gandhi, who took up bridge in England as a young man.

along with violin and dancing lessons. According to Gandhi, he first felt the influence of religion while playing in a bridge game at an English resort. A female member of his foursome began making advances at him. The lonely Gandhi, having left his bride at home in India, was about to succumb to temptation when he felt the presence of the Almighty.

As he advanced spiritually, Gandhi never denigrated his bridge playing. He even used the game to explain his orthodox Hindu beliefs. Karma (predetermined fate) is analogous to the hand dealt at bridge, and dharma (man's actions) is how man plays the hand.

A person is not bound to a destiny by a particular hand. You are dealt a hand in life, and you must make the best of it.

Though the Jewish sages discuss karma, saying that not a leaf falls that isn't the will of the Lord, I'm not sure rabbis would make precisely the same comparison to a card game. Still, religious bridge players can take heart that karma is to blame when they don't hold good cards.

IN TODAY'S deal, from a rubber-bridge game in Beit Bridge Club of Tel Aviv, bridge expert Moshe Lavi demonstrated that Gandhi wasn't far off the mark. He was dealt a 10-point hand and was up against vulnerable opponents with a 60 partscore. He found a way to thwart his opponents.

His opening bid of three diamonds made life difficult for North, who was dealt the best hand at the table. North doubled for takeout and East, Tomas Brenning, a visitor from Stockholm, made a daring raise to four diamonds, putting pressure on

South. When South bid four hearts, the auction ended and Lavi was back in the hot seat.

He decided to lead the ace of diamonds. Dummy was a distinct disappointment to him, not only because of its strength, but because the key ace seemed to be lying directly behind his honors.

On the first trick, East made a rather interesting signal by dropping the queen. This appeared to be a suit-preference signal for the higher ranking suit, spades. So Lavi switched to a spade, ducked in dummy. East put in the nine, and this lost to the queen.

Declarer immediately attacked clubs to discard some of his losers. A club was led to the ace and on the king of clubs, South threw a spade. It was declarer's plan to ruff a club, hoping for the queen to drop, then take a trump finesse.

This would have succeeded and the karma of declarer appeared to be 11 tricks: one spade, five trumps and five clubs. Lavi decided to throw a wrench into that karma with a little dharma of his own. He played the queen of clubs on the second round of clubs, under the king!

Declarer stopped to take stock. West apparently held a doubleton club. There was no longer safety in playing a third round of clubs to get to the South hand. It looked as if the safest course was to play ace and a trump.

If East held the king of hearts, all would be OK. The defense would score only three tricks. But on the second round of trumps, the surprised declarer watched in dismay as West won the king. Lavi was now able to lead a spade through dummy's king and Brenning took two spade tricks to set the contract.

Was it dharma, as Gandhi would say, or was it karma, as the sages would say? A third opinion would be that one man's dharma is another man's karma. And some say there are another 77 opinions about this.

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Four and twenty blackbirds

NATURE

DVORA BEN SHAUL

I really don't know how many blackbirds there are in my garden and the olive grove that abuts onto it. But there seem to be a lot of them scuttling about under the bushes and in the grass.

The blackbird, commonest of the thrush genus in Israel, makes a lot of noise for a bird of its size. This is because it is an energetic hunter of insects and worms. Spending much of its time on the ground, it leaves no leaf unturned in its search for food.

The blackbird, called *Turdus merula* in Latin and *shaharur* in Hebrew, is well known throughout Europe, Asia and the Far East, even appearing in North Africa. Most populations are stable, but those of Northern Europe and Asia migrate.

The male is jet black with an orange-yellow bill and a ring of the same color around the eye. The female is grayish-brown, with chestnut-brown underparts. Just before nesting, the male's bill turns bright orange.

Some blackbirds here are winter visitors; some are residents and breed here. The winter visitors are usually *T.m. aethiops*; the residents are almost always *T.m. syriacus*. The visitors arrive in November and leave in March.

Although they often mingle with winter visitors during their season, the resident blackbirds are territorial and usually spend their entire lifetime in the same place.

Resident populations tend to be larger than migrators because of the heavy loss of European blackbirds as they pass through Italy and the Balkan states, where they are quite literally "baked in a pie." While no statistics are available dividing birds netted for food into species, blackbirds are a known favorite in many areas. They are easy to catch with nets placed in hedges and scrub areas.

If you have a resident pair of blackbirds in your garden, they will get to know you and your habits, and even form a sort of relationship with you.

I knew one pair in Jerusalem that would go to the tap in a friend's garden and make a fuss until it was turned on so they could bathe. Both they and their annual crop of fledglings were quite unafraid of the human couple in residence and would take crumbs from them from quite

close up. They were particularly fond of leftover coconut macaroon crumbs from Pessah.

THE FEMALE lays up to five - but most commonly three - eggs in a nest of twigs and incubates them for 13 to 14 days. The parent birds join in supplying the nestlings with food for another 15 days, after which they are fledged and begin to leave the nest.

In many cases, a pair of blackbirds will nest twice, and on rare occasions thrice, in a season; but fledgling loss is high due to the large amount of time spent on the ground, where inexperienced young birds fall prey to marauding cats and other predators.

While nesting is usually over by the end of May, it can last until September.

The song of the blackbird is flutelike, mellow and sweet, with a wide variety of distinctive notes. But this bird also likes to mimic the calls of other birds, and even cats.

One resident pair in my garden is noticeable because the male keeps imitating the call of a cuckoo. The calls are usually from some high spot, like a tree or aerial wire. In the mating and nesting season, they can be heard all day.

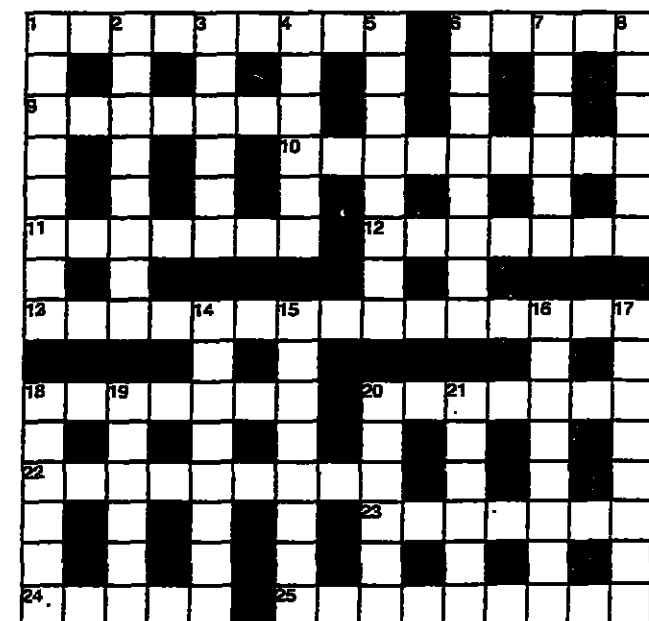
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Check sieve put in to soak (9)
- To sleep in it is not fitting (5)
- Large number going to London borough for business (7)
- No longer held without consideration (3,2,4)
- Reasons for using a coffee-strainer (7)
- Leave the radio playing martial music (7)
- Be struck by court shoes and make a fast exit (4,2,4,5)
- Monarch joined forces and returned to the fray (7)
- Refrain from describing an ancestor (7)

DOWN

- Low-frequency radiation requires a warning (3,5)
- Plant producing artificial stone (8)
- Dried fruit is seen in wet weather (8)
- Singo brewed for bars (6)
- What litigants bring to obtain a portmanteau judgment? (4,4)



SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quik Solution
ACROSS: 1 Party, 4 Clew, 8 Manner, 10 Reign, 11 Ugly, 12 Shingle, 13 Tap, 14 Star, 15 Less, 16 Fox, 20 Partner, 21 Rank, 24 Afoot, 25 Include, 26 Galaxy, 27 Every.

DOWN: 1 Famous, 2 Rural, 3 Yank, 5 Horrible, 6 Wrinkle, 7 Danger, 8 Grasp, 15 Transfer, 16 Term, 17 Sprang, 18 Prail, 19 Cheeky, 22 Amuse, 23 Ache.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Racing (7)
- Irish wit and playwright (5)
- Ship of the desert (5)
- Young hare (7)
- Shyness (7)
- Cellulose fabric (5)
- Muslin place of worship (6)
- Counsel (6)
- Indian prince (5)
- Organic degeneration (7)
- Lost one's footing (7)
- Make reparation (5)
- Simple song (5)
- Go down (7)

DOWN

- Happen again (5)
- Retributive justice (7)
- Loafers (5)
- Ship's kitchen (6)
- Was irrefutable (7)
- Heavy-goods vehicle (5)
- Inter-state understanding (7)
- Deserved (7)
- Sad (7)
- Ameliorate (7)
- Frank (6)
- Marijuana cigarette (5)
- Brings up (5)
- Give away (5)



Turn on a screen: Channel surfing for the perfect mate

LIFE-STYLE

SUE FISHKOFF

I walked into the Jerusalem offices of TV Date determined not to go through with it. Within a minute I was seated before the camera, blithely describing myself and my ideal mate in my less-than-elegant Hebrew, smiling fixedly at the lens and wondering whether I'd brushed my hair.

That quick turnaround testifies to the persuasive powers of TV Date owner Ilan Azrad, 29, a wiry, energetic person with a piercing dark gaze that is somewhat unnerving, but whose quiet smile reassures nervous clients.

TV Date has been operating in Tel Aviv for a little over two years, and opened its Jerusalem office four months ago. Next month, Azrad plans to open a Haifa branch, quickly followed by Beersheba, eventually hooking up the whole country to one gigantic electronic superhighway of love.

"It will give us a tremendous pool of people," says Azrad, noting that his 1,800 cassettes of single romantic hopefuls will be shared by all branches. "Lots of people in Jerusalem already know everyone in the city. Now we can put together an engineer from Jerusalem with a doctor from Tel Aviv."

The system, brought to Israel from the United States, is simple. A client walks in, answers preliminary questions (age, height, qualities sought in a mate, age range). Then he or she is seated in the filming room, against a sweeping backdrop of blue skies and billowing clouds, to be videotaped answering three straightforward questions: How would you describe yourself? What are you looking for in a mate? How do you see your future?

Once every two weeks, a client comes in to view up to five videos of prospective matches. Both people watch each other's video, and if there's mutual interest, telephone numbers are exchanged, and the clients are left to arrange a meeting. Security is tight, Azrad explains. All clients are submitted to graphology tests, and divorces are checked with the Interior Ministry.

THE IDEA behind TV Date is to give busy, mostly professional people a way of previewing potential dates, selected by Azrad or his assistants according to the client's stated preferences. The goal is marriage, or at least a long-term serious relationship, so the service won't waste time suggesting inappropriate matches. If the client wants only tall professors, Azrad says, the service will not offer a short chef.

"We believe that people know what they want," he says.

The videotaping itself is excruciating, if you think too much about what you're doing. As I searched for words to describe my most appealing qualities, I tried to push from my mind



TV Date advertising manager Vered Pollak and company owner Ilan Azrad demonstrate filming a video clip.

(Karen Ben-Zion)

the unsettling image of my videocassette rolling around for years in their offices, being dragged out for all and sundry to view, critique and reject. My smiling face could be rewound at will, my every word scrutinized by unknown legions of tall professors and short chefs. Yeech.

But once you get through the filming, the reward kicks in. You are seated in a private viewing room, handed some tagged videocassettes, and, remote control in hand, you're ready to watch.

It's a fantasy come true: zipping through face after face, marking "yes" or "no" with a swift slash of the pen. Thanks to the protective barrier of the TV screen, it's one-way scrutiny. They're on show. You're not. Ha!

VIDEO-DATING is all the rage now in the US. I tried a service in Monterey, California, about six years ago. It was comparable to TV Date in

method and price, but differed in two areas. TV Date is more concerned with client security — hence the background checks with the Interior Ministry. The California service spent more personal time with the client, and encouraged long talks to "get to know you better."

TV Date is not cheap. Tel Aviv clients pay NIS 1,900 for six months, while the newly opened Jerusalem branch is offering an introductory rate of NIS 1,500.

But TV Date is not the only player on the organized local singles scene, as a quick glance at any Friday paper will show. Matchmaking services of all kinds advertise their unique qualities, running the gamut from expensive, personalized service to date-by-mail, and pay-as-you-go systems.

Haim Rotter, who runs ads in the English and Hebrew dailies, charges NIS 2,100 for his video dating service — in the same price range as TV

Date. But unlike TV Date's six-month contract, Rotter promises to honor your subscription "until you marry," according to the staffer who answered the phone.

Then there are places like Video Date in Tel Aviv, which charged NIS 399 in April, and has already dropped its price to NIS 99, which includes setting up a personal portfolio and filming your videocassette. Clients can come watch videos whenever they want, but pay NIS 8 for each cassette viewed, presumably to discourage idle channel-surfing.

Ya'ad, another Tel Aviv service, is even more barebones. For NIS 120, you fill out a form by mail, indicating your preferences in a partner, and send it to headquarters along with a photograph of yourself. The Ya'ad folks will then find appropriate matches and send the information on to you, also by mail. The service is renewable after six months.

SO WHO uses these services? The hopeless? Love jorm? That nerdy kid in your sixth-grade class with the green pants and the slide rule?

According to Azrad and company, their clients are all "middle to upper range" in socioeconomic status. Most have college educations, and many are professionals. Ages range from 18 to 68, with a preponderance in the late 20s to 30s. About 10 percent are native English-speakers, and a handful live in America, France or Belgium, but are looking for Israeli mates.

TV Date won't accept clients who have little hope of finding a match. That includes elderly singles, the severely wounded or handicapped, and, sadly, most Russians.

"The Israelis don't like them," says advertising manager Vered Pollak. "When we put on the video, as soon as they hear the accent, they say, 'Take it off.' We have a couple of lovely Russian olim, a beautiful young woman physician and a young man in his 20s, an engineer, but we can't match them with anyone. It's very sad."

After my taping, I was shown five cassettes, selected by Azrad and an assistant, who used their intuition as much as what I actually said I was seeking. The men all appeared to be fine, upstanding citizens: a doctor, an economist, a man who owned his own insurance business, an air-traffic controller, a security professional. They were good-looking and well-spoken, they worked hard, they had outside interests, they all wanted a serious, kind woman. What could be wrong with that?

I liked two, rejected two, and said maybe to one. Frankly, that's much better odds than the average party. Now I wait for the two men I chose to come in and watch my video. If there's mutual interest, TV Date will give each of us the other's number, and it's up to us to arrange a meeting.

A ONE-TIME medical student who has taken several non-accredited courses in psychology, Azrad depends heavily on his personal sensitivity and "parapsychological powers."

"I can look into a person's eyes and see their entire history," he claims.

"People come in with all kinds of scars from the past. Some think they're ugly, or not photogenic. We help them with their self-esteem. There are some people who haven't had a relationship in years, who are nervous about starting again. It's delicate, sensitive work."

"Some people come here with psychological blocks," Azrad explains. "My job is to break through that, help them feel at ease. We do it slowly, step by step. You don't want to be videotaped? OK, how about just saying 'Hi' and taking a picture. See, you look great! Now we move on."

"Everyone who comes here wants to find a partner. They all have serious intentions. We're just helping them not to be alone. Loneliness is our No. 1 enemy."

Now, all I have to do is wait for Yossi or Yitzhak to call.

Long-distance dad reaches out to touch someone

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

FOREIGN Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer, who helped draft the Israel-PLO accord, has a close relationship with his father, Vienna-based stage and screen personality Gideon Singer, who saw him on television during the dispute over the signing of the maps.

The younger Singer, when traveling home from the Oslo talks, used to stop off in Vienna, but the two did not speak to each other after the Cairo ceremony.

Appearing the following Friday on Gabi Gazit's current affairs program, Joel Singer was offered the opportunity to talk to his father via satellite, but the link broke almost immediately. While Joel switched from Hebrew to German in a futile attempt to get a response, his father — who had arrived shortly before the program went on the air — came up behind him and tapped him on the shoulder.

Gideon Singer's musical tribute to the week's historic developments was his rendition of "To Dream the Impossible Dream." The faraway look in Joel Singer's eyes suggested that he was already dreaming the next impossible dream — an accord with Syria.

THOUGH WIDELY acknowledged as one of the pioneers of photojournalism, Jerusalemite Tim Gidal was not among the 55 photographers invited to participate in the nationwide *A Day in the Life of Israel* shoot. But Gidal, who turns 85 on May 18, was not insulted by the exclusion. "I never take on a job that's hurried," he said.

Still capturing images in between writing books, teaching and lecturing, Gidal — who recently had a major exhibition in Vienna — is currently preparing a book on Jerusalem to be published in 1996 in conjunction with the city's 3,000th anniversary.

Other than those pictures taken before his time, most of the 240 photographs in the book will be his own work. In the interim, the Israel Museum is producing a Tim Gidal retrospective exhibition. Gidal's most photographed subjects were pre-state Zionist activists Henrietta Szold and president Chaim Weizmann.

NORTH AMERICAN Bnei Akiva-Hashomer Hadati held

their 60th anniversary reunion on Sunday in Jerusalem. The movement's first world secretary, Yosse Shapira, is not usually in the habit of correcting a chief rabbi in public, but he decided to set the record straight after Yisrael Meir Lau said Shapira had been his leader in the movement. "He was too ashamed to say that it was Bracha, my wife, who was his leader," declared Shapira. "That's how come he turned out so well."

ATTENDANCE AT the Bnei Akiva reunion exceeded the expectations of the organizers, with hundreds of former members flocking in from all over the country. Among them were pioneers of a three-generation Bnei Akiva family, Rabbi Jay and Ruby Ray Karzen, now of Jerusalem, who met through Bnei Akiva in Chicago. Their daughter and son-in-law, Tamar and Morris Rubin of Efrat, and their son and daughter-in-law, Rabbi Uri and Shelli Karzen of Hebron, are also alumni. Grandson Elichai Rubin, 12, is currently a member of Bnei Akiva.

IN TIMES of crisis, Americans send out for pizza. That's what they did last week in Cairo when it seemed that the snags in the Israel-PLO agreement might not be ironed out in time for the signing ceremony. When Sahid Mohammed Ali, general manager of the Cairo Pizza Hut, received the order, he thought it was a hoax and refused to deliver. Undaunted, the Americans picked it up themselves. Did Ali wind up with mozzarella on his face? No way. He can now boast of pizza's contribution to diplomatic initiatives.

FEW PEOPLE make the connection between Lee Liberman, one of the project directors of the book *A Day in the Life of Israel*, and the Australian-based family whose Israel investments often make news. The daughter-in-law of Australian business tycoon Jack Liberman, Lee Liberman took on the task of rounding up sponsors of the project, one of which is Paz Petroleum, which figures promi-



Pioneer photo-journalist Tim Gidal: 'I never take on a hurried job.'

(Vivienne Silver)



Sheila Zucker: Whom would you thank if you won a CNN reporting award?

(Dale Weiss)

of the facilities for the upcoming Jerusalem Film Festival), also anticipates a large clientele of movie goers. As for working women, last Friday architect Rina Berler celebrated her birthday with 16 of her friends, including Judy Levine from New York who comes to Israel three times a year for a month at a time.

Also among the guests was the Government Press Office's Linda Rembaum whose husband Dr. Avi Rifkind, head of the trauma unit at Hadassah Hospital, was likewise celebrating his birthday. Unwilling to cramp Berler's style, Rifkind, who lives across the road from the restaurant, waited until she'd greeted all her guests before making his own entrance.

ALARMED BY the US State Department's alert to US citizens contemplating travel to Israel, the Tourism Ministry quickly organized a travel writers' tour to prove that Israel is much safer than many parts of America. Participants included Daniel Drooz, who worked here for several years until 1976 as a foreign correspondent, and Pete Silver, who worked here as a photojournalist for *Time* magazine in 1973-74. Both took time out to catch up with old friends. Drooz also skipped the trip to Masada, explaining that after having scaled the heights with Yigael Yadin, it just wouldn't be the same.

HIS EFFORTS to promote Dutch culture here have earned Israel Museum director Martin Weyl the title of Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau. The honor was conferred by Queen Beatrix herself at a ceremony in The Hague.

NOMINATED FOR a prize at the annual CNN World Report convention in Atlanta for her television report on the Hidden Child Congress in Jerusalem, IBA News reporter Sheila Zucker, who also runs a column in *The Jerusalem Post's* local *In Jerusalem* supplement, declined to take all the glory for herself. She wouldn't have been able to do it without her crew, she said.

GIFT GIVING goes hand in glove with bar mitzva celebrations, but as a rule the guests are not the recipients. Rasi Bar-On, who 13 years ago established a scholarship fund in memory of her late husband Max, who was both a senior diplomat and a violinist, last week marked the fund's bar mitzva with the distribution of 45 scholarships. Bar-On annually distributes scholarships (850 to date) to music-school string instrumentalists aged five to 15. Aided in this task by Tamar Kollek, Bar-On has also established a special prize in Kollek's name as well as in the name of long-time *Jerusalem Post* music critic Yohanan Boehm, who until his death six years ago was the scholarship adjudicator. The task has since been taken up by Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra concert master Motti Schmidt.

THE SUPREME compliment: hosting a dinner in honor of Lee Kwan Yew, Prime Minister Rabin said his guest was known among Israelis as "the Ben-Gurion of Singapore."

EQUAL TIME? Not according to Likud MK Uri Landau. Further to complaints by members of his party that Labor is getting much more exposure than Likud on Channel 1, Landau contends that in terms of air time, Likud is also trailing behind the Palestinians. Landau may not be aware that the Palestinians are making much more news than Likud.

PERSONALLY AFFRONTED by the decision of former political prisoner Esther Levitan to return to South Africa, World WIZO president Raya Jaglom, who was instrumental in tracing her whereabouts when she was incarcerated, and in providing her with employment when she came to Israel, asks: "where would she be today, had I not acted so swiftly to find out where she was being held?" Considering that for 10 years Israel provided shelter and WIZO provided a job for Levitan, Jaglom finds it "unfair to say the least" that Levitan should state on television that she is dreaming of going back to South Africa to take up new challenges. But then again, Levitan never made it a secret that she did not feel quite at home here.

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